

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

WILLIAM WESNER, Individually and On
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

UBS AG, PETER A. WUFFLI, CLIVE
STANDISH and DAVID S. MARTIN,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 07-cv-11225-RJS

ROBERT GARBER, Individually and On
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

UBS AG, PETER A. WUFFLI, CLIVE
STANDISH and DAVID S. MARTIN,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 08-cv-00969-RJS

**DECLARATION OF SHARAN NIRMUL IN SUPPORT
OF THE MOTION OF INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR GROUP FOR
CONSOLIDATION, APPOINTMENT
AS LEAD PLAINTIFF, AND APPROVAL OF ITS SELECTION OF COUNSEL**

Sharan Nirmul, declares under penalty of perjury, this 11th day of February, 2008:

1. I am an associate of the law firm of Grant & Eisenhofer P.A.. I submit this Declaration in support of the Motion of Deka International (Ireland) Ltd (“Deka Ireland”), International Fund Management, S.A. (Luxemburg) (“Deka Luxemburg”), Union Asset Management Holding AG (“Union”), Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH (“LBB-Invest”); Erste-Sparinvest Kapitalanlagegesellschaft m.b.H. (“Erste-Sparinvest”), and the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (“APERS”) (the “Institutional Investor Group”) for Consolidation, Appointment as Lead Plaintiff, and Approval of Its Selection of Counsel.

2. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the signed certifications of Clemens Gaebel and Dr. Joachim von Cornberg, on behalf of Union Asset Management AG; Dr. Franz Gschiegl and Mag. Winifred Buchbauer, on behalf of Erste-Sparinvest Kapitalanlagegesellschaft m.b.H; Oliver Behrans, on behalf of Deka International (Ireland) Ltd.; Rainer Mach and Alfred Braudner, on behalf of International Fund Management S.A., Luxemburg; and Gail Stone, on behalf of Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, pursuant to the requirements of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (“PSLRA”) of 1995. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(2).

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the notice to class members concerning the action that was published on December 13, 2007 on *Business Wire* advising the public of the pendency of a class action filed on behalf of shareholders of UBS AG. (“UBS”).

4. Attached hereto as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of the firm biography of Grant & Eisenhofer P.A., proposed co-Lead Counsel.

5. Attached hereto as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of the firm biography of Motley Rice LLC, proposed co-Lead Counsel.

6. Attached hereto as Exhibits E is a compendium of cases in which other courts have appointed foreign investors lead plaintiff in securities class actions, cited in the Institutional Investor Group's Memorandum of Law, footnote 4.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: February 11, 2008.

s/ Sharan Nirmul

Exhibit A

JOINT CERTIFICATION
of
DEKA INTERNATIONAL (IRELAND) Ltd.
INTERNATIONAL FUND MANAGEMENT S.A. LUXEMBURG

The undersigned individuals, as representatives of the entities mentioned herein, make this Joint Certification pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4, and state as follows:

1. We have reviewed the Complaint against UBS AG ("UBS") and are duly authorized to make this Certification on behalf of Deka International (Ireland) Ltd. ("Deka Ireland"), and International Fund Management S.A. Luxembourg ("International Fund") (collectively the "DEKA Plaintiffs").
2. We have reviewed the records of the DEKA Plaintiffs' transactions in the securities of UBS for the proposed class period ("Class Period"). Those transactions are listed in the chart attached as Schedule A to this Certification.
3. The DEKA Plaintiffs intend to actively monitor and vigorously pursue this action for the benefit of the class, rather than simply relying on its attorneys. DEKA has retained the law firm of Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. to represent it in this action as lead counsel for the proposed class. This firm is knowledgeable and experienced in securities law and litigation, particularly with regard to the role and responsibilities of institutional investors in class actions.
4. Like other investors who purchased UBS securities during the Class Period, the DEKA Plaintiffs believe that their losses occurred as a result of the defendants' fraudulent conduct and violations of the securities laws. The DEKA Plaintiffs believe that their claims against the defendants are typical of those of other members of the class.
5. The DEKA Plaintiffs did not purchase the securities that are the subject of the various complaints at the direction of counsel or to participate in any private action arising under the federal securities laws. The DEKA Plaintiffs invested in UBS solely for its own business purposes.

6. The DEKA Plaintiffs are willing to serve as the representative party on behalf of the proposed class of UBS security holders who invested during the Class Period. The DEKA Plaintiffs intend to pursue this litigation for the best interests of all class members and take whatever steps are necessary regardless of geographic location.

7. During the three-year period preceding the date of this Certification, DEKA Ireland has served or sought to serve as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws in the following securities class actions:

Selbst v. The Coca-Cola Company, Civ. No. 05-1226 (N.D. Ga.) (Appointed)

In re Able Laboratories Securities Litigation, Case No. 05-CV-2681 (JAG) (MCA) (D.N.J. 2005) (Appointed)


8. The International Fund has neither sought to be appointed nor served as a representative party on behalf of a class in a class action under the federal securities laws.

9. The DEKA Plaintiffs will not accept any payment for serving as the representative party on behalf of the class beyond their *pro rata* share of any recovery, except as ordered and approved by the Court.

We declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

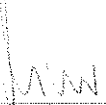
Dated: February 11, 2008

Deka International (Ireland) Ltd.

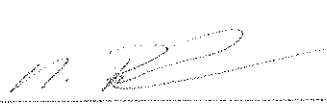


Oliver Behrens

International Fund Management S.A. Luxembourg



Rainer Mach



Alfred Brandner

UBS AG
Class Period: February 13, 2006 - December 11, 2007
DEKA Funds
Schedule A

-----Purchases-----		
Trade Date	Shares	Price

-----Sales-----		
Trade Date	Shares	Price

Deka International (Ireland) Ltd.

Open position	0	
12/10/2007	57,067	CHF 58.1411
12/10/2007	13,498	CHF 58.3505
12/11/2007	120,836	CHF 57.2606
12/11/2007	75,121	CHF 57.7265

International Fund Management S.A.

Open position	1,194,800				
4/21/2006	100,000	CHF 72.8065	4/13/2006	700,000	CHF 72.3000
4/26/2006	700,000	CHF 72.5000	4/13/2006	400,000	CHF 72.3000
4/26/2006	400,000	CHF 72.5000	2/26/2007	60,000	CHF 75.4500
6/12/2006	1,600	CHF 64.3500	4/2/2007	842,600	CHF 72.0500
6/12/2006	60,000	CHF 65.3850	4/2/2007	550,000	CHF 72.0500
6/14/2006	2,000	CHF 62.7100	6/26/2007	150,000	CHF 73.9580
6/16/2006	50,000	CHF 65.0000	7/18/2007	54,800	CHF 72.7810
6/16/2006	44,000	CHF 65.1000	9/26/2007	12,000	CHF 62.0000
6/21/2006	5,000	CHF 64.6000	11/9/2007	400,000	CHF 51.3386
10/25/2006	5,600	CHF 77.9500			
11/13/2006	1,000	CHF 75.5000			
4/3/2007	1,800	CHF 73.4500			
4/11/2007	400,000	CHF 74.2500			
4/23/2007	442,600	CHF 77.7500			
4/23/2007	550,000	CHF 77.7500			
9/3/2007	3,600	CHF 63.5000			
11/21/2007	20,000	CHF 48.3105			

Separator Page

**PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION
PURSUANT TO FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

The undersigned, Clemens Gaebel and Dr. Joachim von Cornberg, on behalf of Union Asset Management Holding AG ("Union"), for account of the funds listed in Schedule A (the "Funds"), declare the following as to the claims asserted, or to be asserted, under the federal securities laws:

1. We have reviewed a complaint against UBS AG ("UBS") and designate Motley Rice LLC as proposed lead counsel for Union in this action for all purposes.
2. We are duly authorized to institute legal action on Union's and the Funds' behalf, including serving as lead plaintiff in this litigation against UBS and the other defendants. Union controls and manages and is attorney-in-fact for the Funds.
3. Union did not acquire UBS securities at the direction of plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in any private action under the federal securities laws.
4. Union is willing to serve as a lead plaintiff and understands that a lead plaintiff is a representative party who acts on behalf of other class members in directing the action, and whose duties may include testifying at deposition and trial. Union also understands that, if appointed Lead Plaintiff in this action, it will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court and will be bound by all rulings by the Court, including rulings regarding any judgments.
5. Union will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party beyond its pro rata share of any recovery, except reasonable costs and expenses, such as lost wages and travel expenses, directly related to the class representation, as ordered or approved by the court pursuant to law.
6. Within the past three years, Union has sought to serve as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws in the following cases:

Merck & Co., Inc., Sec., Derivative & "ERISA" Litig., No. 05-CV-1151 (D.N.J. 2005);
In Re: Dell, Inc. Securities Litigation, No. 06-CV-00726 (W.D. Tex. 2006).
7. Within the past three years, Union has served as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws in the following cases:

In Re: Dell, Inc. Securities Litigation, No. 06-CV-00726 (W.D. Tex. 2006).
8. Union understands that this is not a claim form, and that its ability to share in any recovery as a member of the class is unaffected by its decision to serve as a representative party.
9. Attached hereto as Schedule A is a complete listing of all transactions Union made on behalf of the Funds during the Class Period in the securities that are the subject of the complaint. Union will provide records of those transactions upon request.

10. Union is also represented and counseled in this matter by its attorney, Deborah M. Sturman of Sturman LLC.

We declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of February 2008

Union Asset Management Holding AG



Clemens Gabel
General Counsel



Dr. Joachim von Cornberg
General Counsel

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
AKEA-Fonds UP-QUANT			
Split:	07/10/06	9,072	0.0000
Purchases:	03/05/07	2,662	70.3781
	11/26/07	34,931	51.1926
Sales:	06/22/06	6,368	132.4561
	07/20/06	8,636	64.2547
	03/27/07	6,495	72.5945
	08/24/07	5,675	63.1334
AllianzGI-Fonds DREDOCK Aktien Europa 2			
Purchases:	11/22/07	11,404	48.6394
ARSD-Universal-Fonds Equity Markets			
Purchases:	11/26/07	7,420	51.1926
BI-UI Fonds SAA -PanAgora -AE-			
Split:	07/10/06	5,256	0.0000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	Purchases:	03/16/06	5,256
		11/21/07	50,304
	Sales:	12/05/06	3,118
		04/04/07	4,973
		08/28/07	2,421
			63.4686
Cosmic European Equities			
	Split:	07/10/06	883
			0.0000
	Purchases:	03/13/07	810
		11/23/07	2,226
		11/23/07	911
	Sales:	07/21/06	610
		03/27/07	1,671
		08/24/07	295
			63.5251
			72.5945
			63.1334
dbi-Fonds AKLB Segment AKLB			
	Split:	07/10/06	3,515
			0.000.
	Purchases:	02/28/06	15,925
		11/21/07	5,366
	Sales:	02/28/06	6,765
		04/25/06	2,640
		06/22/06	3,005
		07/20/06	4,670
		04/04/07	1,693
		08/22/07	667
			139.6690
			145.5461
			132.4561
			64.2547
			73.5570
			63.2600
dbi-Fonds dbiv Segment dbiv A			
	Split:	07/10/06	1,902
			0.0000
	Purchases:	11/21/07	12,022
	Sales:	07/19/06	2,936
		12/20/06	868
			61.7730
			73.2347
dbi-Fonds KV-MF Segment Aktien 4			
	Purchases:	07/24/06	1,851
		10/11/06	1,970
			62.4223
			78.2072

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	03/09/07	1,000	72.0288
	11/23/07	1,371	49.5749
	11/23/07	563	49.9149
Sales:	12/13/06	1,993	74.0409
	03/26/07	1,752	73.1707
	08/22/07	1,076	63.2600
DeAM Manager-Select Global Equities SEGM			
Split:	07/10/06	594	0.0000
Purchases:	11/23/07	2,355	49.5749
	11/23/07	967	49.9149
Sales:	12/12/06	682	73.0331
	08/24/07	506	63.1334
DeAM-Fonds Securent A 3			
Purchases:	11/23/07	8,855	49.5749
	11/23/07	3,633	49.9149
DeAM-Fonds WPV-PA			
Split:	07/10/06	1,228	0.0000
Purchases:	11/21/07	4,176	48.5743
Sales:	12/12/06	1,155	73.0331
	04/10/07	1,000	74.3793
	08/28/07	301	63.4685
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 91 Segment 3091			
Split:	07/10/06	19,000	0.0000
Purchases:	10/02/06	12,200	74.3534
Sales:	06/27/07	10,100	72.0760
DJ Stoxx 50 (Tracking -30)			
Split:	07/10/06	39,444	0.0000
Purchases:	05/24/07	30,316	79.0973

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Sales:	10/24/07	19,410	62.9921
DJ Stoxx 50 aktiv			
Split:	07/10/06	32,580	0.0000
Purchases:	02/17/06	8,000	140.3350
Hockenheim INKA Segment Equities			
Split:	07/10/06	4,469	0.0000
Purchases:	11/23/07	6,307	49.5749
	11/23/07	2,588	49.9149
Sales:	07/20/06	2,638	64.2547
	03/27/07	4,252	72.5945
	08/31/07	2,048	62.7321
MI-Fonds 338 Segment XAY			
Purchases:	11/21/07	3,954	48.5743
OP-AWL DG PanAgora			
Split:	07/10/06	5,182	0.0000
Purchases:	11/21/07	21,856	48.5743
Sales:	07/20/06	3,600	64.2547
	12/20/06	2,516	73.2347
	08/22/07	4,248	63.2600
Oppenheim Aktien Strategie MultiManager			
Split:	07/10/06	9,560	0.0000
Purchases:	04/12/06	1,901	144.2241
	10/11/06	2,415	78.2072
	11/26/07	4,630	51.1926
	12/10/07	6,414	57.8684
	12/10/07	2,954	57.9496
	12/10/07	3,383	57.6923
Sales:	07/05/06	978	134.8056

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	07/19/06	10,734	61.7730
	12/13/06	2,014	74.0409
	07/11/07	2,484	72.5210
	09/13/07	2,461	60.9756
Pecunia 1 Subfonds Aktien			
Split:	07/10/06	7,018	0.0000
Purchases:	10/10/06	7,280	78.0327
	11/26/07	42,419	51.1926
Sales:	07/18/06	5,575	61.2889
	12/05/06	7,908	72.3925
	04/10/07	5,754	74.3793
	08/24/07	2,079	63.1334
	12/10/07	4,789	57.6577
Südinvest 165-1 AUP			
Split:	07/10/06	2,388	0.0000
Purchases:	10/11/06	3,536	78.2072
	11/09/07	36	51.0356
	11/09/07	6,057	51.1795
	11/23/07	8,394	49.5749
	11/23/07	3,444	49.9149
Sales:	07/19/06	2,004	61.7730
	11/08/06	1,431	75.6046
	12/05/06	2,238	72.3925
	04/13/07	1,836	74.4892
	08/22/07	803	63.2600
UI-Münsterland-B-Fonds			
Split:	07/10/06	5,153	0.0000
Purchases:	10/11/06	6,531	78.2072
	11/23/07	8,772	49.5749
	11/23/07	3,599	49.9149
Sales:	07/19/06	4,503	61.7730
	11/16/06	6,522	75.8896
	12/13/06	1,838	74.0409
	04/10/07	2,860	74.3793

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	08/24/07	1,114	63.1334
UIN-Fonds Nr. 621 Segment 4621			
Purchases:	09/10/07	3,800	61.0668
UniValueFonds: Global			
Purchases:	03/13/07	255,470	71.1005
UniRak			
Purchases:	10/01/07	50,000	64.4772
UniGlobal			
Split:	07/10/06	97,560	0.0000
Purchases:	04/24/06	80,000	145.1029
	05/25/07	250,000	78.4615
	05/29/07	250,000	79.2727
	10/15/07	100,000	67.3009
	11/12/07	400,000	53.0706
Sales:	04/12/06	80,000	144.0971
	03/13/07	195,120	71.0981
LIGA-Pax-Aktien-Union			
Split:	07/10/06	32,000	0.0000
Purchases:	04/24/06	30,000	145.1079
	09/04/06	13,300	70.6146
Sales:	04/12/06	30,000	144.0921
UniGlobal-net-			
Split:	07/10/06	25,875	0.0000
Purchases:	04/24/06	20,000	145.1118
	08/07/07	80,900	66.3225
	10/15/07	18,000	67.3123
	11/14/07	62,500	55.7433

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Sales:	04/12/06	20,000	144.0882
	03/13/07	51,750	71.0930
MVB Union Global Plus			
Purchases:	03/19/07	15,000	70.1309
Sales:	04/12/07	700	73.4008
	05/07/07	500	76.8751
	06/04/07	400	79.4603
	07/02/07	500	73.3279
	12/06/07	700	56.2163
Invest Global			
Split:	07/10/06	4,300	0.0000
Purchases:	08/07/07	15,200	66.3357
	10/15/07	4,200	67.3582
	11/14/07	12,500	55.7591
Sales:	04/26/06	4,200	145.7193
	03/13/07	8,600	71.0579
KCD-Union Nachhaltig AKTIEN			
Split:	07/10/06	9,500	0.0000
Purchases:	10/27/06	28,000	78.5709
Sales:	07/14/06	19,000	62.4028
	02/14/07	2,000	77.9340
UniFavorit:Aktien			
Purchases:	07/16/07	38,000	74.9060
	09/27/07	45,000	62.9256
	11/14/07	100,000	55.7137
Sales:	11/09/07	83,000	50.8451
	11/21/07	100,000	48.8995
ULH-Fonds			
Split:	07/10/06	38,600	0.0000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Purchases:	12/20/06	16,000	73.5402
VBWL-Spezialfonds			
Split:	07/10/06	10,000	0.0000
Purchases:	02/23/06	5,000	144.2448
	08/28/07	6,600	62.4967
BBWG-Spezialfonds Nr. 1			
Split:	07/10/06	0	0.0000
Purchases:	02/23/06	400	144.4248
Spezialfonds Nr. 125			
Purchases:	12/28/06	10,000	74.0493
Sales:	07/17/07	10,000	73.8616
Volksbank Straubing Spezialfonds Nr. 1			
Split:	07/10/06	98,000	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	1,400	142.2959
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 35			
Split:	07/10/06	79,012	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	800	142.4822
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 38			
Split:	07/10/06	8,500	0.0000
Purchases:	10/05/06	2,500	76.0465
	10/02/07	5,000	67.4587
	11/12/07	8,000	53.5997
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 52			
Split:	07/10/06	13,900	0.0000
Purchases:	05/10/06	9,900	149.4672

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	05/15/06	4,000	143.9126
Sales:	08/25/06	3,500	69.1412
	01/04/07	12,150	75.4655
	06/22/07	2,600	75.4736
	08/15/07	4,770	62.0752
	08/16/07	4,780	62.3241
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 74			
Split:	07/10/06	0	0.0000
Purchases:	02/21/06	1,200	142.8201
Sales:	06/01/06	1,400	138.0659
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 91			
Split:	07/10/06	19,000	0.0000
Purchases:	10/02/06	12,200	74.3534
Sales:	06/27/07	10,100	72.0760
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 112			
Split:	07/10/06	10,200	0.0000
Purchases:	04/06/06	4,100	146.2913
	04/07/06	2,500	146.6056
	04/12/06	1,600	144.6100
	05/29/06	2,000	140.4207
	06/01/07	4,000	80.0762
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 175			
Split:	07/10/06	7,800	0.0000
Purchases:	09/14/07	2,400	61.1952
	11/21/07	3,000	48.5370
Sales:	10/24/06	3,000	78.8145
	10/02/07	2,000	67.0091
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 205			
Split:	07/10/06	0	0.0000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Purchases:	02/20/06	1,000	142.5484
	03/16/06	500	142.4482
Sales:	07/18/07	1,000	72.9246
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 284			
Purchases:	01/25/07	22,100	78.8790
	05/02/07	1,300	79.2175
Sales	06/04/07	1,300	80.0818
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 323			
Purchases:	11/01/07	2,000	59.9825
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 400			
Split:	07/10/06	13,200	0.0000
Purchases:	06/06/06	1,800	136.2292
	07/05/07	7,400	73.8486
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 424			
Split:	07/10/06	2,900	0.0000
Purchases:	04/19/06	2,900	147.3602
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 515			
Split:	07/10/06	6,600	0.0000
Purchases:	05/24/07	5,000	78.9389
Sales:	01/08/07	5,000	74.9164
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 526			
Split:	07/10/06	850	0.0000
Purchases:	07/13/07	439	73.9617
Sales:	09/15/06	1,286	71.5523
	10/29/07	853	62.1496

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 544			
Split:	07/10/06	0	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	600	142.2548
UIN-Fonds Nr. 562			
Split:	07/10/06	86,844	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	650	142.4553
Sales:	05/17/06	950	143.1484
UIN-Fonds Nr. 567 KTF-Cofonds			
Split:	07/10/06	4,278	0.0000
Purchases:	07/27/07	4,900	66.4666
	07/31/07	43,844	68.3763
	08/09/07	4,100	67.3190
	08/10/07	5,900	65.1091
	08/10/07	5,600	65.8896
	08/14/07	5,900	63.9363
	08/31/07	2,200	63.0044
	11/02/07	3,500	58.3948
	11/05/07	5,000	55.3720
UIN-Fonds Nr. 599 Klinge			
Split:	07/10/06	16,800	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	600	140.5645
UIN-Fonds Nr. 600			
Split:	07/10/06	20,000	0.0000
Purchases:	01/22/07	20,000	76.9156
	02/12/07	25,000	79.1427
	05/03/07	6,000	75.4468
UIN-Fonds Nr. 615			
Split:	07/10/06	5,600	0.0000
Purchases:	02/15/06	5,600	137.4272

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	08/18/06	104	0.0000
	08/23/06	11,200	69.9897
Sales:	08/18/06	22,504	64.5905
Südinvest 144			
Split:	07/10/06	10,200	0.0000
Purchases:	04/06/06	4,100	146.3489
	04/07/06	2,500	146.7000
	04/12/06	1,600	144.7540
	05/29/06	2,000	140.4207
	06/01/07	4,000	80.0762
UIN-Fonds Nr. 621			
Split:	07/10/06	6,000	0.0000
Purchases:	05/30/06	6,000	135.6000
	09/10/07	3,800	61.0668
DEVIF-Fonds Nr. 60			
Purchases:	04/19/07	2,079	60.0772
	07/13/07	99,079	73.9617
	11/26/07	42,419	51.1926
Sales:	08/24/07	2,079	63.1334
	10/30/07	99,079	61.0987
	12/10/07	4,789	57.6577
UIN-Fonds Nr. 560			
Purchases:	07/12/07	20,514	72.9426
Sales:	10/29/07	20,514	62.1496
UIN-Fonds Nr. 659			
Purchases:	10/04/07	800	67.8771
DKB Zukunftsfonds			
Purchases:	08/27/07	10,918	63.9572

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
UniDynamicFonds: Europa			
Purchases:	07/20/06	200,000	64.6095
	01/12/07	100,000	76.1344
	03/15/07	100,000	69.0321
	04/20/07	100,000	77.2539
Sales:	09/07/06	100,000	69.9245
	10/23/06	50,000	77.8939
	10/25/06	50,000	78.0025
	06/06/07	50,000	77.1953
	06/27/07	25,000	72.9039
	10/16/07	58,500	66.6821
	10/18/07	46,900	65.5576
	10/24/07	45,600	63.1563
	10/26/07	74,000	61.9259
UniDynamicFonds: GLOBAL			
Split:	07/10/06	0	0.0000
Purchases:	04/24/06	20,000	145.1000
	08/17/07	50,000	64.7485
Sales:	04/12/06	20,000	144.1000
	03/13/07	10,000	70.8757
	03/15/07	20,000	68.7150
UniValueFonds: Global			
Purchases:	03/13/07	255,470	71.1005
UniValueFonds: Europa			
Split:	07/10/06	29,200	0.0000
Purchases:	04/24/06	47,000	145.1050
	08/16/06	26,600	69.2191
	12/12/06	60,000	73.9850
	04/05/07	17,000	73.3422
	11/30/07	55,300	57.0264
Sales:	04/12/06	47,000	144.0950
	06/22/06	18,500	132.3233
	10/04/06	11,000	73.6508
	10/31/06	29,000	74.3290

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

UNION	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	08/02/07	40,000	66.9816
	08/03/07	27,000	66.2396
UniDoubleChance			
Purchases:	10/01/07	1,750	62.8200
	11/14/07	4,800	55.7165
Sales:	11/01/07	1,750	58.3275
	11/21/07	4,800	49.0608

**PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION
PURSUANT TO FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

The undersigned, Dr. Franz Gschiegl and Mag. Winfried Buchbauer, on behalf of ERSTE-SPARINVEST Kapitalanlagegesellschaft m.b.H. ("ERSTE-SPARINVEST"), for account of the funds listed in Schedule A (the "Funds"), declare the following as to the claims asserted, or to be asserted, under the federal securities laws:

1. We have reviewed a complaint against UBS AG ("UBS") and designate Motley Rice LLC as proposed lead counsel for ERSTE-SPARINVEST in this action for all purposes.
2. We are duly authorized to institute legal action on ERSTE-SPARINVEST's and the Funds' behalf, including litigation against UBS and the other defendants. ERSTE-SPARINVEST controls and manages and is attorney-in-fact for the Funds.
3. ERSTE-SPARINVEST did not acquire UBS securities at the direction of plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in any private action under the federal securities laws.
4. ERSTE-SPARINVEST is willing to serve as a lead plaintiff and understands that a lead plaintiff is a representative party who acts on behalf of other class members in directing the action, and whose duties may include testifying at deposition and trial. ERSTE-SPARINVEST also understands that, if appointed Lead Plaintiff in this action, it will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court and will be bound by all rulings by the Court, including rulings regarding any judgments.
5. ERSTE-SPARINVEST will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party beyond its pro rata share of any recovery, except reasonable costs and expenses, such as lost wages and travel expenses, directly related to the class representation, as ordered or approved by the court pursuant to law.
6. Within the past three years, ERSTE-SPARINVEST has sought to serve as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws in the following cases:

In Re: General Motors Securities Litigation, No. 05-cv-8088 (S.D.N.Y. 2005);
Rosen v. General Motors Corporation et al., No. 05-cv-60290 (E.D. Mich. 2005);
(The motions in the GM actions relate to parallel proceedings stemming from the same litigation filed in two districts. The consolidated class action is now proceeding as *In Re: General Motors Corporation Securities & Derivative Litigation*, 2:06-md-01749-GER (E.D. Mich. 2006));
In Re: UnitedHealth Group Inc. PSLRA Litigation, No. 06-cv-01691 (D. Minn. 2006);
In Re: Juniper Securities Litigation, 06-cv-04327 (N.D. Cal. 2006);
Weissmann v. Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc., 06-cv-03226 (D.N.J. 2006);
In Re: Telik Inc. Securities Litigation, Case No: 1:07-cv-04819-CM (S.D.N.Y. 2007).

7. Within the past three years, ERSTE-SPARINVEST has not served as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws.

8. ERSTE-SPARINVEST understands that this is not a claim form, and that its ability to share in any recovery as a member of the class is unaffected by its decision to serve as a representative party.

9. Attached hereto as Schedule A is a complete listing of all transactions ERSTE-SPARINVEST made on behalf of the Funds during the Class Period in the security that is the subject of the complaint. ERSTE-SPARINVEST will provide records of those transactions upon request.

10. ERSTE-SPARINVEST is also represented and counseled in this matter by its attorney, Deborah M. Sturman of Sturman LLC.

We declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct

Executed this 11 day of February 2008

ERSTE-SPARINVEST Kapitalanlagegesellschaft m.b.H.



Dr. Franz Gschiegl
Managing Director



Mag. Winfried Buchbauer
Legal Counsel

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
15AU			
Split:	07/10/06	274,350	0.0000
Purchases:	04/28/06	274,350	147.0000
	08/16/07	50,000	62.3000
Sales:	10/26/06	100,000	79.1600
	10/27/06	100,000	78.5900
	10/30/06	40,000	78.1500
	02/13/07	108,700	78.0600
ADVISORY EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES			
Purchases:	01/10/08	13,000	49.5300
Sales:	01/24/08	13,000	47.4000
ALPENFONDS			
Split:	07/10/06	1,850	0.0000
Purchases:	09/15/06	1,000	71.9000
	01/10/07	1,800	61.9300
	04/20/07	1,000	77.0000
	11/20/07	1,500	50.8000
	11/30/07	2,000	56.4000
	12/11/07	1,500	53.0000
Sales:	02/15/06	350	137.5000
	07/08/07	2,000	66.5000
	09/10/07	2,000	67.7000
	11/14/07	1,500	55.0500
	11/21/07	2,000	48.2400
	01/18/08	1,000	43.2000
E 57			
Split:	07/10/06	6,827	0.0000
Purchases:	06/19/06	761	128.6500
	06/20/06	660	128.0600
	06/21/06	200	128.9000
	06/22/06	519	132.1800
	02/03/07	541	71.4800
	06/15/07	261	77.7100
	07/08/07	277	65.9600
	07/08/07	474	66.3100
	07/08/07	2,310	66.2700
	07/24/07	515	70.4500
	07/24/07	377	70.3700

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Sales:	01/12/06	591	72.4300
	09/08/06	1,041	64.9500
	11/08/06	1,043	65.6600
ESPA PRO MIX			
Split:	07/10/06	3,447	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	453	141.3500
	02/22/06	103	143.6300
	06/09/06	100	132.3000
	06/19/06	253	128.6500
	06/20/06	219	128.0600
	06/21/06	66	128.9000
	06/22/06	173	132.1800
	06/15/07	166	77.7100
	07/08/07	189	66.3100
	07/08/07	111	65.9600
	07/08/07	924	66.2700
	07/24/07	230	70.4500
	07/24/07	168	70.3700
	11/01/07	100	74.7500
	12/02/07	149	79.4000
	01/14/08	213	49.2200
	01/18/08	318	43.1400
	01/28/08	113	45.2300
	04/01/08	133	49.2000
Sales:	03/31/06	61	142.1000
	12/18/06	400	74.0000
	02/03/07	111	72.3000
	02/05/07	352	78.9400
	02/21/07	705	77.6500
	06/02/07	1,163	79.0000
	11/16/07	216	52.5500
	12/17/07	306	54.2500
ESPA PRO TOP			
Split:	07/10/06	6,373	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	942	141.3500
	02/22/06	215	143.6300
	06/19/06	332	128.6500
	06/20/06	288	128.0600
	06/21/06	87	128.9000
	06/22/06	226	132.1800
	07/08/07	1,689	66.2700
	07/08/07	347	66.3100
	07/08/07	202	65.9600
	07/24/07	297	70.3700
	07/24/07	406	70.4500

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Sales:	03/31/06	130	142.1000
	11/28/06	350	72.4000
	01/15/07	350	76.4000
	01/30/07	404	77.4300
	02/03/07	205	72.3000
	05/11/07	199	55.0500
	06/02/07	2,346	79.0000
	10/26/07	252	62.1000
	01/29/08	546	46.2000
ESPA STOCK EUROPE			
Split:	07/10/06	49,866	0.000.
Purchases:	08/17/06	2,892	71.0000
	09/13/06	1,221	71.1500
	01/19/07	2,694	76.2500
	04/26/07	206,587	79.9500
Sales:	05/12/06	3,488	145.6000
	06/01/06	1,612	139.5000
	12/20/06	2,268	72.9500
	02/28/07	2,694	72.2500
	06/21/07	7,689	76.0000
	08/16/07	9,369	61.8000
	09/19/07	4,362	64.4000
	11/20/07	7,935	50.5500
	12/12/07	4,490	56.2500
	12/14/07	19,395	54.7600
	01/23/08	6,755	43.8000
ESPA STOCK EUROPE-ACTIVE			
Split:	07/10/06	14,500	0.0000
Purchases:	06/14/06	14,500	123.8400
	08/24/06	6,700	68.9300
	03/04/07	13,000	73.3000
Sales:	11/09/06	18,600	69.8400
ESPA STOCK GLOBAL			
Split:	07/10/06	10,350	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	1,434	141.3500
	02/22/06	327	143.6300
	03/13/06	400	141.3000
	03/27/06	392	143.8200
	04/28/06	150	146.3000
	06/19/06	648	128.6500
	06/20/06	562	128.0600
	06/21/06	170	128.9000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	06/22/06	442	132.1800
	09/05/06	1,500	71.2000
	01/15/07	300	76.4000
	07/24/07	671	70.3700
	07/24/07	919	70.4500
	08/07/07	661	66.3100
	08/07/07	3,221	66.2700
	08/07/07	386	65.9600
Sales:	02/06/07	4,202	79.0000
	03/02/07	600	72.3000
	04/17/07	595	75.7500
	05/11/07	730	75.3500
	06/01/07	617	80.0000
	09/17/07	661	61.1300
	10/19/07	820	65.3500
	11/09/07	685	53.7500
	11/12/07	540	53.0000
	12/03/07	536	56.9000
	12/17/07	2,397	54.2500
	12/21/07	418	52.8000
	12/28/07	688	52.2500
	01/28/08	300	45.0800
K 401			
Purchases:	09/15/06	4,600	72.0400
	09/26/06	4,400	73.8600
Sales:	04/24/07	6,167	77.4500
	09/13/07	2,833	62.2000
K 402			
Purchases:	10/30/07	4,000	61.4700
	11/12/07	2,000	52.0200
Sales:	11/14/07	1,000	55.5900
	11/29/07	3,000	55.8400
VBV FUNDAMENTAL BLEND EQUITIES			
Split:	07/10/06	22,217	0.0000
Purchases:	02/20/06	2,423	141.3500
	02/22/06	553	143.6300
	06/19/06	1,066	128.6500
	06/20/06	925	128.0600
	06/21/06	279	128.9000
	06/22/06	727	132.1800
	10/09/06	1,300	76.0000
	10/31/06	32,523	74.3000
	10/31/06	1,846	74.3000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	11/13/06	1,500	75.4000
	06/15/07	1,815	77.7100
	07/08/07	11,413	66.2700
	07/08/07	2,341	66.3100
	07/08/07	1,368	65.9600
	07/24/07	2,087	70.3700
	07/24/07	2,855	70.4500
Sales:	11/22/06	3,300	75.3500
	02/21/07	9,111	77.6900
	03/28/07	2,800	71.1500
	07/12/07	2,754	57.0000
	10/18/07	9,288	66.2000
	12/28/07	2,355	52.2500
	10/01/08	874	49.6800
VBV PASSIVE WORLD EQUITIES			
Purchases:	09/29/06	36,318	74.8000
	10/24/06	4,181	78.1000
Sales:	10/02/06	10,597	73.7500
	04/10/07	1,999	74.2000
	07/04/07	1,890	74.3000
XT EUROPA			
Split:	07/10/06	2,858	0.0000
Purchases:	02/14/06	900	138.9000
	05/31/06	153	137.1000
	06/06/06	764	136.1000
	06/13/06	821	122.9000
	08/03/06	2,367	66.2500
	08/17/06	1,179	71.3500
	08/24/06	2,388	69.3500
	10/04/06	713	74.3500
	10/20/06	1,362	78.3500
	01/29/07	1,173	77.6500
	03/04/07	7,325	73.3000
	04/17/07	13,438	75.7600
	06/20/07	3,983	78.1000
	08/31/07	4,422	63.3500
	10/01/07	667	75.2000
Sales:	03/03/06	1,574	141.0200
	04/04/06	1,297	144.1000
	04/10/06	476	146.6000
	04/13/06	394	145.0000
	05/17/06	242	139.9000
	07/05/06	702	134.8000
	09/26/06	1,312	73.7500
	11/07/06	1,367	76.4000

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 02/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

ERSTE-SPARINVEST	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
	11/27/06	2,529	73.1500
	12/01/06	732	71.9000
	12/05/06	681	72.0800
	04/09/07	3,865	64.3300
	08/10/07	1,758	68.3000
	01/25/08	5,586	47.3900

PLAINTIFF'S CERTIFICATION
PURSUANT TO FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

The undersigned, Andreas Hess and Ralf Ehlert, on behalf of Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH ("LBB-Invest"), for account of the funds listed in Schedule A (the "Funds"), declare the following as to the claims asserted, or to be asserted, under the federal securities laws:

1. We have reviewed a complaint against UBS AG ("UBS") and designate Motley Rice LLC as proposed lead counsel for LBB-Invest in this action for all purposes.
2. We are duly authorized to institute legal action on LBB-Invest's and the Funds' behalf, including litigation against UBS and the other defendants. LBB-Invest controls and manages and is attorney-in-fact for the Funds.
3. LBB-Invest did not acquire UBS securities at the direction of plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in any private action under the federal securities laws.
4. LBB-Invest is willing to serve as a lead plaintiff and understands that a lead plaintiff is a representative party who acts on behalf of other class members in directing the action, and whose duties may include testifying at deposition and trial. LBB-Invest also understands that, if appointed Lead Plaintiff in this action, it will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court and will be bound by all rulings by the Court, including rulings regarding any judgments.
5. LBB-Invest will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party beyond its pro rata share of any recovery, except reasonable costs and expenses, such as lost wages and travel expenses, directly related to the class representation, as ordered or approved by the court pursuant to law.
6. Within the past three years, LBB-Invest has not sought to serve as a representative party for a class in an action under the federal securities laws.
7. LBB-Invest understands that this is not a claim form, and that its ability to share in any recovery as a member of the class is unaffected by its decision to serve as a representative party.
8. Attached hereto as Schedule A is a complete listing of all transactions LBB-Invest made on behalf of the Funds during the Class Period in the security that is the subject of the complaint. LBB-Invest will provide records of those transactions upon request.
9. LBB-Invest is also represented and counseled in this matter by its attorney, Deborah M. Sturman of Sturman LLC.

We declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct

Executed this 8 day of February 2008

Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH

Andreas Hess
Director

Ralf Ehlert
Director

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 2/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
BB-Dortmund-Fonds			
Split:	07/10/07	15,950	0.0000
Purchases:	12/06/06	1,700	72.3500
	06/27/07	31,400	72.5389
	07/03/07	7,150	74.2500
Sales:	03/07/06	18,030	137.7248
	12/04/07	3,100	54.0500
BB-Europa-INVEST			
Split:	07/10/06	25,750	0.0000
Purchases:	03/03/06	5,860	140.7003
	06/08/06	5,200	133.0000
	06/22/07	10,750	74.9163
Sales:	05/09/06	1,200	150.1000
	03/07/07	8,150	70.3536
	07/02/07	1,100	73.5400
	07/23/07	975	69.2500
BB-LKH-Fonds			
Split:	07/10/06	7,600	0.0000
Purchases:	4/5/06	7,600	145.3132
Sales:	10/18/06	3,200	77.7500
	12/15/06	2,000	74.8500
	01/23/07	1,400	76.5500
BB-MV-Fonds			
Split:	07/10/06	6,150	0.0000
Purchases:	03/03/06	1,350	141.6000
	06/07/06	1,300	134.3000
	07/19/06	1,000	61.7500
	06/22/07	5,800	74.9500
FondsVermögensBaustein II			
Purchases:	05/04/07	2,000	77.2000
	05/10/07	2,100	77.0500

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 2/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
LINGOHR-ALPHA- SYSTEMATIC-LBB-INVEST			
Purchases:	05/29/07	33,200	79.4500
	06/14/07	4,700	77.1500
	07/24/07	7,200	69.9000
	09/04/07	2,300	62.9255
	11/20/07	20,888	50.7003
LINGOHR-EUROPA- SYSTEMATIC-LBB-INVEST			
Purchases:	05/11/07	77,800	75.5078
	06/05/07	6,600	79.1500
	06/28/07	19,050	73.5500
Sales:	12/07/07	103,450	57.3455
LINGOHR-SYSTEMATIC-LBB-INVEST			
Purchases:	05/25/07	336,200	78.7480
	07/20/07	70,900	70.1106
	09/04/07	28,400	64.1733
	11/13/2007	65,400	53.8261
Stratego Chance			
Split:	07/10/06	950	0.0000
Purchases:	05/26/06	200	137.5000
	06/14/06	250	125.0000
	02/05/07	300	78.7500
	06/25/07	600	74.4000
	09/07/07	500	61.7000
Stratego Konservativ			
Split:	07/10/06	7,050	0.0000
Purchases:	06/07/2006	1,000	134.4000
	02/05/2007	2,000	78.7500
	02/26/2007	2,000	76.2500
	06/25/2007	5,800	74.4000
	09/07/2007	5,000	61.7000
Stratego Offensiv			

UBS AG (Virt-x: UBSN VX)
Class Period: 2/13/06 - 12/11/07

Schedule A

Landesbank Berlin Investment GmbH	DATE	SHARES	PRICE
Split:	07/10/06	550	0.0000
Purchases:	05/18/06	250	137.9000
	01/25/07	400	78.8500
	09/07/07	600	61.6000
 Stratego Wachstum			
Split:	07/10/06	5,100	0.0000
Purchases:	05/26/06	800	137.5000
	06/07/06	1,000	134.4000
	06/14/06	500	125.0000
	01/26/07	1,000	77.5474
	02/12/07	800	79.0500
	02/26/07	800	76.2000
	03/22/07	900	73.2500
	06/25/07	3,000	74.4000
	09/07/07	2,000	61.7000
	10/04/07	900	68.0000

Separator Page

CERTIFICATION OF PLAINTIFF
PURSUANT TO FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

I, Gail Stone, on behalf of the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System ("Plaintiff") declare, as to the claims asserted under the federal securities laws, that:

1. I have reviewed a class action complaint asserting securities claims against UBS AG. ("UBS") and wish to join as a plaintiff retaining Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, P.L.L.C. as my counsel.

2. Plaintiff did not purchase the security that is the subject of this action at the direction of plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in this private action.

3. Plaintiff is willing to serve as a representative party on behalf of the class, including providing testimony at deposition and trial, if necessary.

4. Plaintiff's transactions in UBS common stock during the Class Period of February 13, 2006 through December 11, 2007 were as indicated on the attached table

5. During the three years prior to the date of this Certificate, Plaintiff has sought to serve or served as a representative party for a class in *In re Brocade Securities Litigation*, Case No. 3:05-cv-02042-CRB (N.D. Cal.), *In re American International Group, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No 04 Civ 8141 (S.D.N.Y.); and *Kim v. Harman International Industries, Inc.*, Case No. 1:07-cv-01757 (D.D.C.).

6. Plaintiff will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party on behalf of the class beyond Plaintiff's *pro rata* share of any recovery, except such reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages) directly relating to the representation of the class as ordered or approved by the court.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing true and correct.

Executed this 11th Day of February, 2008.



Gail Stone, Executive Director,
For the Arkansas Public Employees
Retirement System

The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System's UBS Common Stock Transactions
Security ID: H8920M855 (CUSIP)

Trade Date	Transaction Type	# Shares	Share Price (\$)
5/15/2006	Buy	4300	119.41

Security ID: H89231338 (CUSIP)

Trade Date	Transaction Type	# Shares	Share Price (\$)
7/12/2006	Sell	-6400	53.47
7/17/2006	Sell	-1800	49.05
7/17/2006	Sell	-300	48.83
7/19/2006	Sell	-7060	49.21
7/27/2006	Sell	-1500	53.11
8/22/2006	Sell	-1000	56.76
10/11/2006	Buy	16800	61.64
12/7/2006	Sell	-1400	60.56
3/30/2007	Sell	-2800	59.59
4/23/2007	Buy	300	64.2
4/24/2007	Buy	300	64.69
4/24/2007	Buy	500	64.34
4/25/2007	Buy	900	64.85
4/26/2007	Buy	1800	65.7
4/27/2007	Buy	1800	65.54
8/7/2007	Sell	-1200	55.85

Security ID: B18YFJ4 (SEDOL)

Trade Date	Transaction Type	# Shares	Share Price (CHF)
11/28/2006	Sell	-11611	72.21
1/12/2007	Sell	-46709	75.85
1/30/2007	Sell	-5441	77.15
2/13/2007	Sell	-10978	77.68
2/14/2007	Sell	-11230	78.24
2/15/2007	Sell	-8985	77.08
2/28/2007	Sell	-25471	71.23
3/12/2007	Sell	-18486	70.68
3/15/2007	Sell	-11461	68.91
5/3/2007	Sell	-23259	75.97
5/3/2007	Sell	-25275	76.38

Exhibit B

Yahoo! My Yahoo! Mail Make Y! your home page Search: Web Search

YAHOO! FINANCE **Sign In** Finance Home
New User? Sign Up - Business Wire
Help

Welcome **Sign In** To track stocks & more, Register

Financial News

Enter symbol(s) Basic Symbol Lookup

Press Release

Source: Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP

Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP Files Class Action Suit Against UBS AG

Thursday December 13, 3:05 pm ET

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP ("Coughlin Stoia") (<http://www.csgr.com/cases/ubs/>) today announced that a class action has been commenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of purchasers of UBS AG ("UBS" or "the Company") (NYSE:UBS - [News](#)) common stock during the period between March 13, 2007 and December 11, 2007 (the "Class Period").

If you wish to serve as lead plaintiff, you must move the Court no later than 60 days from today. If you wish to discuss this action or have any questions concerning this notice or your rights or interests, please contact plaintiff's counsel, Samuel H. Rudman or David A. Rosenfeld of Coughlin Stoia at 800/449-4900 or 619/231-1058, or via e-mail at [dj@csgr.com](mailto:djr@csgr.com). If you are a member of this class, you can view a copy of the complaint as filed or join this class action online at <http://www.csgr.com/cases/ubs/>. Any member of the purported class may move the Court to serve as lead plaintiff through counsel of their choice, or may choose to do nothing and remain an absent class member.

The complaint charges UBS and certain of its officers and directors with violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. UBS is a global investment banking and securities firm which provides a range of financial services, including advisory services, underwriting, financing, market making, asset management, brokerage and retail banking on a global level.

The complaint alleges that, during the Class Period, defendants issued numerous statements regarding the Company's business and financial results. According to the complaint, these statements were materially false and misleading because they failed to disclose the Company's failure to timely write-down impaired securities containing subprime debt.

On October 30, 2007, UBS issued a press release announcing its financial results for the third quarter of 2007. In the days following this announcement, the price of UBS stock declined to as low as \$49.27 per share. Then, on December 10, 2007, UBS announced writedowns of around \$10 billion as a result of its subprime mortgage related positions. Following this announcement, the price of UBS stock declined to \$48.78 per share, a 26% decline from the Class Period high.

Plaintiff seeks to recover damages on behalf of all purchasers of UBS common stock during the Class Period (the "Class"). The plaintiff is represented by Coughlin Stoia, which has expertise in prosecuting investor class actions and extensive experience in actions involving financial fraud.

Coughlin Stoia, a 190-lawyer firm with offices in San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Boca Raton, Washington, D.C., Houston and Philadelphia, is active in major litigations pending in federal and state courts throughout the United States and has taken a leading role in many important actions on behalf of defrauded investors, consumers, and companies, as well as victims of human rights violations. Coughlin Stoia lawyers have been responsible for more than \$45 billion in aggregate recoveries. The Coughlin Stoia Web site (<http://www.csgr.com>) has more information about the firm.

Contact:

Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP
Samuel H. Rudman, 800-449-4900
David A. Rosenfeld
[djrr@csgr.com](mailto:djr@csgr.com)

Source: Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP

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Exhibit C

GRANT & EISENHOFER P.A.

FIRM BIOGRAPHY

Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. (“G&E”) is a national litigation boutique with more than 40 attorneys that concentrates on federal securities and corporate governance litigation and other complex class actions. G&E primarily represents domestic and foreign institutional investors, both public and private, who have been damaged by corporate fraud, greed and mismanagement. The firm was named to the National Law Journal’s Plaintiffs’ Hot List each of the last three years and is listed as one of America’s Leading Business Lawyers by Chambers and Partners, who reported that G&E “commanded respect for its representation of institutional investors in shareholder and derivative actions, and in federal securities fraud litigation.” Based in Delaware, New York and Washington, G&E routinely represents clients in federal and state courts throughout the country. G&E’s clients include the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, New York State Common Retirement Fund, New York City Retirement System, Ohio Public Employees’ Retirement System, State of Wisconsin Investment Board, Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana, PIMCO, Franklin Templeton, Trust Company of the West, The Capital Guardian Group and many other public and private domestic and foreign institutions.

G&E was founded in 1997 by Jay W. Eisenhofer and Stuart M. Grant, formerly litigators in the Wilmington office of the nationally prominent firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Over the years, the firm’s partners have gained national reputations in securities and corporate litigation. The firm has obtained over six billion dollars in cases where the firm has served as lead counsel. Institutional Shareholder Services’ scorecard of securities litigators consistently ranks G&E in the top 5 firms in total shareholder recoveries as well as in the top 5 firms for average shareholder recovery. G&E has been lead counsel in some of the largest securities class action recoveries in U.S. history:

\$3.2 billion settlement from Tyco International Ltd.

\$450 million Pan-European settlement from Royal Dutch Shell

\$444 million settlement from Global Crossing Ltd.

\$300 million recovery from Oxford Health Plans

\$300 million settlement from DaimlerChrysler Corporation

\$276 million judgment & settlement from Safety-Kleen

G&E has also achieved landmark results in corporate governance litigation:

Caremark / CVS Merger - G&E represented institutional shareholders challenging the conduct of the Caremark board in connection with the merger agreement with CVS, and its rejection of a competing proposal. G&E was able to force Caremark to provide additional disclosures to public shareholders and to renegotiate the merger agreement with CVS

to provide Caremark shareholders with an additional \$3.19 billion in cash consideration and statutory appraisal rights.

AFSCME v. AIG – This historic federal appeals court ruling in favor of G&E’s client will enable proxy access for shareholders to nominate director candidates, long considered the “holy grail” for investor activists.

In re Digex, Inc. Shareholders Litigation - \$420 million settlement – the largest recovery in the history of the Delaware Court of Chancery.

Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana v. HealthSouth – ousted holdover board members loyal to indicted CEO Richard Scrushy, and created mechanisms whereby *shareholders* would nominate their replacements.

Carmody v. Toll Brothers – resulted in the seminal ruling that “dead-hand” poison pills are *illegal*.

State of Wisconsin Investment Board v. Medco Research, Inc., et al. - forced corrective disclosures and delayed vote on merger, resulting in \$48 million increase to *shareholders*.

TRSL v. Thomas M. Siebel, et al. – forced Siebel Systems to restructure its entire compensation system as well as cancel 26 million management stock options with a value of over \$56 million.

Unisuper Ltd. v. News Corp., et al. – forced News Corp. to rescind the extension of its poison pill on the grounds that it was obtained without proper shareholder approval.

G&E currently serves as lead counsel in the securities class actions involving, among others, Tyco International, Marsh & McLennan, Parmalat and Refco.

In addition, the firm’s lawyers are often called upon to testify on behalf of institutional investors before the SEC and various judicial commissions. They also frequently write and speak on securities and corporate governance issues. Jay Eisenhofer recently co-authored “The Shareholder Activism Handbook” and was named by Treasury and Risk Magazine one of the 100 most influential people in finance.

G&E is proud of its success in ‘fighting for institutional investors’ in courts and other forums across the country and throughout the world.

Grant & Eisenhofer's Attorneys

Jay W. Eisenhofer

Jay Eisenhofer, founder and managing partner of G&E, has been lead counsel in many of the largest securities class action recoveries in history including the \$3.2 billion settlement in the Tyco case, the \$450 million settlement in the Global Crossing case, and the historic \$450 million pan-European settlement in the Shell case. Mr. Eisenhofer was the lead attorney in the seminal cases of *American Federation of State & County & Municipal Employees, Employees Pension Plan v. American International Group, Inc.* where the U.S. Court of Appeals required shareholder proxy access reversing years of SEC no-action letters, and *Carmody v. Toll Brothers*, wherein the Delaware Court of Chancery first ruled that so-called "dead-hand" poison pills violated Delaware law. Mr. Eisenhofer has been prominently featured in Law Dragon's formidable 'Law Dragon 500' list of leading litigators in America, Treasury and Risk Management magazine selected Mr. Eisenhofer as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Finance, and the National Law Journal has selected Grant & Eisenhofer as one of the top ten plaintiffs' law firms in the country for the last two years. He has served as litigation counsel to many of the largest public and private institutional investors in the world, including CalPERS, Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association, the Florida State Board of Administration, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Ohio Public Employee Retirement Systems, Stichting Pensioenfonds ABP, and Franklin Advisers, Inc. He is currently lead counsel in the securities class actions involving Apple Computer and Marsh & McLennan, among others.

Mr. Eisenhofer is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (1978), and the Villanova University School of Law, *magna cum laude* (1986), Order of the Coif. He was a law clerk to the Honorable Vincent A. Cirillo, President Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court and thereafter joined the Wilmington office of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. Mr. Eisenhofer was a partner in the Wilmington office of Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley until forming G&E in 1997.

Mr. Eisenhofer has written and lectured widely on securities fraud and insurance coverage litigation, business and employment torts, directors' and officers' liability coverage, and the Delaware law of shareholder rights and directorial responsibilities. Among the publications he has authored: "The Shareholders Activism Handbook" Aspen Publishers; "Proxy Access Takes Center Stage – The Second Circuit's Decision in AFSCME Employees Pension Plan v. American International Group, Inc." *Bloomberg Law Reports*, Vol. 1, No. 5; "Investor Litigation in the U.S. - The System is Working" *Securities Reform Act Litigation Reporter*, Vol. 22, #5; "In re Walt Disney Co. Deriv. Litig. and the Duty of Good Faith Under Delaware Corporate Law" *Bank & Corporate Governance Law Reporter*, Vol. 37, #1; "Institutional Investors As Trend-Setters In Post-PSLRA Securities Litigation" *Practicing Law Institute*, July, 2006; "In re Cox Communications, Inc.: A Suggested Step in the Wrong Direction," *Bank and Corporate Governance Law Reporter*, Vol. 35, #1; "Does Corporate Governance Matter to Investment Returns?" *Corporate Accountability Report*, Vol. 3, No. 37; "Loss Causation in Light of Dura: Who is Getting it Wrong?" *Securities Reform Act Litigation Reporter*, Vol. 20, #1; "Giving Substance to the Right to Vote: An Initiative to Amend Delaware Law to Require a Majority Vote in Director Elections," *Corporate Governance Advisor*, Vol. 13, #1; "An Invaluable Tool in Corporate Reform: Pension Fund Leadership Improves Securities Litigation Process," *Pensions & Investments*, Nov. 29, 2004; and "Securities Fraud, Stock Price Valuation, and Loss Causation: Toward a Corporate Finance-Based Theory of Loss Causation," *Business Lawyer*, August 2004.

Stuart M. Grant

Stuart M. Grant is a founder and managing partner of Grant & Eisenhofer. His practice consists primarily of representing institutional investors nationwide in securities and corporate governance litigation, proxy contests, and other related matters. Mr. Grant has successfully argued on behalf of institutional investors in many groundbreaking cases including: *Gluck v. CellStar* (in which State of Wisconsin Investment Board was the first institution named as lead plaintiff pursuant to the PSLRA over the objection of first filed plaintiffs), and *In re Digex Stockholders Litigation* (in which lead plaintiff provisions were established in Delaware, and in which plaintiffs achieved the largest settlement in Delaware Chancery Court history), and *In re UniSuper Ltd., et al. v. News Corporation, et al.* (a landmark case in which the Delaware Chancery Court ruled that shareholders may limit board authority without amending the corporation's charter). Most recently, Mr. Grant was lead trial counsel in the six-week securities class action trial of *In re Safety-Kleen Corp. Bondholders Litigation*, which resulted in judgments holding the company's CEO and CFO jointly and severally liable for nearly \$200 million, and settlements with the remaining defendants for \$84 million.

Mr. Grant is a frequent speaker on securities issues, particularly from the institutional investor perspective, at the Practising Law Institute, the Council of Institutional Investors and at other securities fora. In 2004, he taught at PricewaterhouseCoopers/University of Delaware Directors' College. Mr. Grant has also testified on behalf of institutional investors before the SEC and before the Third Circuit Panel on Appointment of Class Counsel. He has published numerous articles on securities litigation including: "Appointment of Lead Plaintiff Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act," 1070 PLI/CORP. 547 (1998); Practising Law Institute, 1998; "Appointment of Lead Plaintiff Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act: Update 2000," 1199 PLI/CORP. 455 (2000); Practising Law Institute, 2000; "Appointment of Lead Plaintiff Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act: Update 2001," 1269 PLI/CORP. 689 (2001); "Appointment of Lead Plaintiff Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act: Update 2002," 1332 PLI/CORP. 695 (2002); "Appointment of Lead Plaintiff Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act: Update 2003," 1386 PLI/CORP. 553 (2003); "The Role of Foreign Investors in Federal Securities Class Actions," 1442 PLI/CORP. 91 (2004); "The Devil is in the Details: Application of the PSLRA's Proportionate Liability Provisions is so Fraught With Uncertainty That They May be Void for Vagueness," 1505 PLI/CORP. 83 (2005); "*Unisuper v. News Corporation*: Affirmation that Shareholders, Not Directors, Are the Ultimate Holders of Corporate Power," 1557 PLI/CORP. 17 (2006); "Institutional Investors and Section 18 of The Exchange Act," *The Review of Securities & Commodities Regulation*, Vol. 33, No. 5, S&P, March 14, 2000; and "Class Certification and Section 18 of the Exchange Act," *the Review of Securities and Commodities Regulation*, Vol. 35, No. 21, S&P, December 11, 2002.

Prior to forming Grant & Eisenhofer in 1997, Mr. Grant was a litigation partner in the Wilmington office of the Philadelphia-based firm of Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley, and prior to that an associate at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, LLP. Since 1994, he has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, leading a securities litigation seminar for third-year law students, and is also a Certified Teacher for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA). Mr. Grant graduated in 1982 *cum laude* from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Economics and received his J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1986. He served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Naomi Reice Buchwald in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Megan D. McIntyre

Ms. McIntyre, a G&E partner, practices in the areas of corporate, securities, and complex commercial litigation. Among other significant work, she has represented institutional investors -- both public and private -- in corporate cases in the Delaware Court of Chancery, as well as in securities class actions in federal courts throughout the country that have resulted in significant recoveries. She was a member of the trial team in *In re Safety-Kleen Corp. Bondholders Litigation*, which ended in settlements and judgments totaling approximately \$280 million after six weeks of trial in the Spring of 2005. In 2006, she was a member of the litigation team in the landmark case of *UniSuper Ltd. v. News Corporation*, where the Delaware Court of Chancery ruled that shareholders may contractually limit directors' authority without amending the certificate of incorporation. Ms. McIntyre has successfully represented clients in obtaining access to corporate proxy statements for the purpose of presenting proposed shareholder resolutions, and has brought and defended actions seeking to enforce shareholders' rights to inspect corporate books and records pursuant to the statutory authority of Section 220 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. She was also the principal author of the firm's amicus curiae brief on behalf of the Council of Institutional Investors (CII), filed in the Delaware Supreme Court in the Walt Disney derivative litigation, urging the Court's adoption as Delaware law of the CII's standards or criteria for determining director "independence." At present, she has a lead role in class actions involving Refco and Able Laboratories, in shareholder derivative actions involving Tyson Foods and Cablevision, and in several cases on behalf of clients who have opted out of securities class actions to pursue individual actions.

Ms. McIntyre has appeared as a guest on CNBC's "On the Money," and has authored or co-authored a number of articles involving issues of Delaware corporate law and the federal securities laws, including: "The Devil is in the Details: Application of the PSLRA's Proportionate Liability Provisions is So Fraught With Uncertainty That They May Be Void for Vagueness," 1505 PLI/Corp 83 (Sept. 2005); "Class Certification and Section 18 of the Exchange Act," *The Review of Securities and Commodities Regulation*, Vol. 35, No. 21, *Standard & Poor's* (Dec. 2002); "The Statutory Right of Inspection: An Important But Often Overlooked Tool," *Corporate Governance Advisor*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (May/June 2001); and "Causes of Action Available to Investors Under Delaware Law, Parts I and II," *Insights* (Oct. 1996; Nov. 1996).

Ms. McIntyre is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University (1991) and The Dickinson School of Law (*magna cum laude* 1994), where she was an Articles Editor for the Dickinson Law Review. Ms. McIntyre is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association. Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer, Ms. McIntyre was associated with the Wilmington, Delaware offices of both Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, LLP and Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley, in their respective litigation departments.

Geoffrey C. Jarvis

Mr. Jarvis is a partner of Grant & Eisenhofer focusing on securities litigation for institutional investors. He had a major role in the Oxford Health Plans Securities Litigation and the DaimlerChrysler Securities Litigation, both of which were among the top ten securities settlements in U.S. history at the time they were resolved. Mr. Jarvis also has been involved in a number of actions before the Delaware Chancery Court, including a Delaware appraisal case that resulted in a favorable decision for the firm's client after trial. At the present time, he has primary responsibility for a number of cases in which Grant & Eisenhofer clients have opted-out of class actions, and also has a lead role in class actions pending against Tyco, Alstom and Sprint.

Mr. Jarvis graduated from Cornell University in 1980 with a B.A. in Government and Economics, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School in 1984. Until 1986, he served as a staff attorney with the Federal Communications Commission, participating in the development of new regulatory policies for the telecommunications industry. He then became an associate in the Washington office of Rogers & Wells, principally devoted to complex commercial litigation in the fields of antitrust and trade regulations, insurance, intellectual property, contracts and defamation issues, as well in counseling corporate clients in diverse industries on general legal and regulatory compliance matters. Mr. Jarvis previously was associated with a prominent Philadelphia litigation boutique and had first-chair assignments in cases commenced under the Pennsylvania Whistle Blower Act and in major antitrust, First Amendment, civil rights, and complex commercial litigation, including several successful arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Mr. Jarvis recently authored “State Appraisal Statutes: An Underutilized Shareholder Remedy,” *The Corporate Governance Advisor*, May/June 2005, Vol. 13, #3, as well as co-authoring “Securities Fraud, Stock Price Valuation, and Loss Causation: Toward a Corporate Finance-Based Theory of Loss Causation,” *Business Lawyer*, August 2004 (co-authored with Jay Eisenhofer and James R. Banko).

Sidney S. Liebesman

Mr. Liebesman, a partner at G&E, concentrates his practice in shareholder derivative litigation, primarily in the Delaware Chancery Court internal investigations, and complex class action litigation involving shareholder rights, securities fraud, and consumer protection. Mr. Liebesman represents a number of sophisticated institutional investors in high-profile securities fraud actions, including *In re Tyco International, Ltd. Securities Litigation*, *In re Enron Corp. Securities Litigation*, *In re WorldCom, Inc. Securities Litigation* and *In re Global Crossing Ltd. Securities Litigation*.

Mr. Liebesman is a graduate of the Villanova University School of Law (1995) and the University of Delaware (1986). While attending Villanova Law School, he served as an Editor of the Villanova Environmental Law Journal and was a finalist in the 35th Annual Reimel Moot Court competition.

Mr. Liebesman has lectured before various groups on corporate governance and litigation matters, and speaks regularly at conferences for public pension fund trustees and administrators. Mr. Liebesman has also authored several articles including, “Caught By the Net, What To Do If A Message Board Messes With Your Client” (co-author), *ABA Business Law today*, Vol. 10, No. 1; “Internet Message Board Litigation—Time Is Of The Essence” (co-author), *ABA Network*, Vol. 8, Issue 1; “Brief on Baseball’s Antitrust Exemption,” *Villanova Sports & Entertainment Law Forum* Vol. 2; and “Triggering an Obligation: Receipt of an EPA PRP Letter and Insurer’s Duty to Defend,” *Villanova Environmental Law Journal* Vol. 5.

Mr. Liebesman was formerly a police officer with the New Castle County, Delaware Police Department, where he served on the Department’s Emergency Response Team and received many commendations. He has lectured to law enforcement officers and agencies regarding civil rights litigation. He is also the founder and president of the Chesapeake Police and Fire Foundation, created for the benefit of survivors of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

John C. Kairis

As a G&E partner, Mr. Kairis represents sophisticated institutional investors in class action and individual “opt-out” securities litigation, and in derivative and corporate governance litigation in Delaware Chancery Court and other courts throughout the country. Mr. Kairis has been a leader of G&E teams that have achieved landmark results for clients, including some of the largest recoveries in securities class action history. He is currently representing British pension fund Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe Ltd. and other purchasers of Parmalat Finanziaria securities in a securities class action against Parmalat. He is also representing Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana in a securities class action against Hollinger International, Inc. and its officers, directors and auditors and just concluded litigation and a settlement on behalf of Stichting Pensioenfond ABP, the pension fund for government and education authorities in the Netherlands, in an opt-out action against AOL Time Warner, its officers and directors, auditors, investment bankers and business partners.

Mr. Kairis has achieved significant corporate governance improvements for G&E’s institutional investor clients, including the recent agreement by HealthSouth Corporation to replace its conflicted directors with independent directors approved by a committee including the institutional investor plaintiff. The groundwork for this case was established through Mr. Kairis’ successful prosecution of a books and records case under Section 220 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which resulted in HealthSouth disclosing documents they had previously refused to produce. Mr. Kairis has mediated and obtained favorable settlements for G&E clients in both major securities cases (including *Wyser-Pratte Management Co. v. Telxon Corp.*) and consumer class actions involving unfair competition and false marketing claims against both Johnson & Johnson and Bausch and Lomb.

Mr. Kairis is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (1984), and the Ohio State University School of Law (1987), where he served as Articles Editor for the Law Review, and received the American Jurisprudence Award and the John E. Fallon Memorial Award for scholastic achievement. Recently, he authored the article “Challenging Misrepresentations in Mergers: You May Have More Time Than You Think,” *Andrews Litigation Reporter*, Vol. 12, Issue 3 (June 14, 2006). He is a member of the Delaware and American Bar Associations and the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Kairis has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including the West-End Neighborhood House, Inc. and the Cornerstone West Development Corporation. He has also served on the Delaware Corporation Law Committee, where he evaluated proposals to amend the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Michael J. Barry

As a partner at G&E, Mr. Barry works with G&E clients in the area of corporate governance, having developed significant expertise in drafting and reviewing bylaws and lobbying companies for corporate governance improvements. He also is an experienced derivative and securities class action litigator. His work in a recent case challenging excessive executive compensation at Siebel Systems, Inc. resulted in extensive corporate governance reforms and a rollback of over \$56 million in stock options. When directors at Willamette Corporation fought a hostile takeover by Weyerhaeuser, Mr. Barry’s work on behalf of shareholders resulted in G&E clients cashing in their shares for a significant premium. Mr. Barry also has extensive experience representing shareholders in appraisal actions arising from cash-out mergers. Mr. Barry currently is part of the G&E teams litigating securities claims arising from the collapse of Global Crossing Ltd. and Qwest Communications International, Inc.

Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer, Mr. Barry practiced at a large Philadelphia based defense firm, where he gained significant experience in corporate and commercial matters as well as Constitutional disputes. Mr. Barry defended the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Senate and Pennsylvania state court judges in a variety of trial and appellate matters. He also represented prisoners on death penalty and constitutional appeals, as well as insurance consumers and claimants on significant coverage disputes.

Mr. Barry is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (B.F.A. 1990) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law (*summa cum laude*, 1993), where he was an Executive Editor of *The University of Pittsburgh Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif.

James J. Sabella

Mr. Sabella is a partner of Grant & Eisenhofer, resident in G&E's New York City office. He has over 30 years of experience in complex civil litigation, including representing plaintiffs and defendants in class and derivative actions, involving trial and appellate work in state and federal courts. He has substantial experience in securities litigation and in litigation involving claims against accounting firms and underwriters. He also has handled antitrust litigation and cases involving the fiduciary obligations of trustees under state law.

Prior to joining G&E, Mr. Sabella practiced for 28 years at several large Manhattan law firms, most recently as a partner in Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, where his practice focused largely on accountants' liability defense, including the defense of actions alleging securities law violations and professional malpractice, as well as grand jury investigations and investigations by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Sabella is a graduate of Columbia Law School (1976) where he was a member of the Board of Directors of the *Columbia Law Review*. He received a B.A. *summa cum laude* from Columbia College (1972) and a B.S. from the Columbia School of Engineering (1973), where he was valedictorian.

David E. Sellinger

David E. Sellinger is a partner at Grant & Eisenhofer. Prior to joining G&E, he was a partner in two prominent Washington, DC law firms, where he handled complex civil litigation in the state and federal courts, as well as white-collar criminal matters. His extensive background representing both defendants and plaintiffs ranges from shareholder and partnership disputes to a wide range of fraud and business tort and other commercial cases. He also has handled intellectual property matters. He has represented clients in parallel criminal, civil and administrative proceedings, and has conducted internal investigations. Early in his career, Mr. Sellinger served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, where he prosecuted over 35 jury trials. He is the former Chair of the Litigation Section of the D.C. Bar, and has served as the President of the Assistant U.S. Attorneys' Association for the District of Columbia, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Council for Court Excellence.

A 1972 graduate of Harvard College, Mr. Sellinger received his law degree from New York University, where he was Articles Editor of the Law Review, in 1976. After law school, he served as a law clerk to the late Judge Robert A. Ainsworth, Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. Sellinger has written and spoken extensively on civil litigation and white-collar criminal issues. Some of his lecture and publication topics include: “Why Your Law Department Needs White-Collar Criminal Capability Before You Have An Inkling Of A Criminal Problem,” *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* (October 2003); “Patent Damages: Trial and Litigation Strategies,” *D.C. Bar Continuing Legal Education Program* (Sept. 2003, Oct. 2004); “Managing Your Compliance Program And Its Effects,” *Corporate Legal Institutes* (June 1995); “Business Crimes And Corporate Criminal Liability,” *National Soft Drink Association, Legal Briefing Conference* (1987); “Protecting The Corporation And Its Management From Criminal Liability,” *Federal Litigators Group Conference* (1987); “The New Federal Bank Bribery And Bank Fraud Laws Enacted Under The Comprehensive Crime Control Act Of 1984,” *ABA Litigation Section Annual Meeting* (1985); “The Good-Faith Exception To The Exclusionary Rule,” *ABA Annual Meeting* (1985); “The Self-Evaluation Privilege: Preserving Confidentiality Of Compliance Information,” *Washington Legal Foundation, Working Paper Series* (1996).

Cynthia A. Calder

Cynthia Calder, a G&E partner, concentrates her practice in the areas of corporate governance and securities litigation. She has represented shareholders in such seminal cases in the Delaware Court of Chancery as *UniSuper Ltd. v. News Corp.* (vindicating the shareholders’ right to vote), *Carmody v. Toll Brothers* (finding the dead-hand poison pill defensive measure was illegal under Delaware law), *Jackson National Life Insurance Co. v. Kennedy* (breaking new ground in the interpretation of fiduciary duties owed to preferred shareholders), *Haft v. Dart Group Corp.* (resolving a contest for control of a significant public corporation) and *Paramount Communications Inc. v. QVC Network* (obtaining an injunction preventing the closing of a merger to force the board of directors to appropriately consider a competing bid for the corporation).

Ms. Calder is a graduate of the University of Delaware (*cum laude* 1987) and the Villanova University School of Law (1991). She is a member of the Delaware Bar Association.

Upon graduating from law school, Ms. Calder served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Maurice A. Hartnett, III, then a Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery and now a retired Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court. Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer, Ms. Calder was an associate in the Wilmington office of Blank Rome LLP.

Ms. Calder has co-authored numerous articles on corporate governance and securities litigation, including: “Options Backdating from the Shareholders’ Perspective” *Wall Street Lawyer*, Vol. 11, No. 3, “Securities Litigation Against Third Parties: Pre-Central Bank Aiders and Abettors Become Targeted Primary Defendants” *Securities Reform Act Litigation Reporter*, Vol. 16, No. 2 and “Pleading Scierter After Enron: Has the World Really Changed?” *Securities Regulation & Law*, Vol. 35, No. 45.

Stephen G. Grygiel

Stephen Grygiel, a Partner with Grant & Eisenhofer, focuses his practice on complex securities and corporate governance litigation. Mr. Grygiel has litigated and tried a variety of shareholder dissolution actions, adversary proceedings in bankruptcy court, and other corporate and commercial matters. He has litigated, among others, issues concerning the validity of stock issued in private companies, minority shareholders’ rights under statutes, by-laws and contracts, valuations and requisite consideration for founders’ stock, minority discounts and control premiums for valuation purposes, the interplay of security interests and stock ownership rights,

secured party seizures of stock, and a bankruptcy estate's ownership of funds fraudulently obtained from banks through a sophisticated check-kiting scheme. Mr. Grygiel has also litigated private cost recovery actions under CERCLA, representing plaintiffs in the *Laurel Park Coalition v. Goodyear* (Connecticut) and *Hanlin v. IMC* (Maine) cases. Having written, and contributed to, articles addressing private cost recovery actions and the intersection of CERCLA and common law rights of action, he has also lectured on those topics to industry professionals.

Mr. Grygiel graduated *magna cum laude* in 1979 from Hamilton College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and won other honors and academic awards. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1986. Following law school, Mr. Grygiel clerked for the Chief Justice of Maine's Supreme Judicial Court.

Keith M. Fleischman

Keith M. Fleischman is a Partner in G&E's New York office, focusing on high profile securities litigation cases. Named a "Super Lawyer" by *Super Lawyer Magazine* in 2006, Mr. Fleischman is a nationally recognized litigator and trial lawyer with over 20 years experience with the Justice Department, U.S. Attorney's Office and large plaintiffs firms.

Mr. Fleischman has served as lead or co-lead counsel and on the executive committee for many notable and successful litigations, including America Online, Ann Taylor, Motorola, Aetna and John Hancock, which collectively resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements to the respective classes. In 1995, Mr. Fleischman was plaintiffs' Chief Trial Counsel in *Robbins v. Koger Properties, Inc.*, in which a federal jury found Deloitte & Touche liable for securities violations and awarded the class \$80+ million after a month-long trial. Mr. Fleischman also successfully argued before the Second Circuit the case of *Novak v. Kasaks*, the precedent-setting decision regarding the pleading standard and disclosure of confidential informants under the PSLRA.

During his eight years as prosecutor, Mr. Fleischman tried numerous cases to verdict and served as Chief Trial Counsel in one of the largest savings and loan prosecutions successfully brought by the federal government, *United States v. Health*. Additionally, he served as a Trial Practice Instructor for the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, U.S. Department of Justice, as a member of the New England Bank Fraud Task Force, Coordinating Committee, and as a member of the Connecticut Bank Fraud Working Group. Mr. Fleischman has received awards from the Director of the FBI and the Attorney General for his work while serving in the Justice Department.

Mr. Fleischman received his B.A. from the University of Vermont in 1980 and a J.D. from California Western School of Law in 1984. He lectures in the U.S. and abroad on the investigation, litigation and prevention of securities fraud.

Charles T. Caliendo

A Senior Counsel in Grant & Eisenhofer's New York office, Mr. Caliendo represents institutional investors in class action securities, opt-out and shareholder derivative litigation.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Caliendo served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Investment Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office where he prosecuted cases and led investigations related to mutual fund "market timing" and "late trading." Prior to that, Mr. Caliendo practiced at a Manhattan-based law firm in the areas of class action securities, M&A, corporate governance and other commercial litigation.

Mr. Caliendo has written and spoken on issues relating to regulatory enforcement, corporate internal investigations and securities and shareholder litigation. In November 2004 and June 2006, Mr. Caliendo was a speaker at financial services industry seminars sponsored by The Association of the Bar of the City of New York for which he authored articles entitled: "The Investment Protection Bureau: An Overview of Financial Markets Regulation and Enforcement in New York" and "Thompson Memo Under A Microscope." In June 2005, Mr. Caliendo spoke before a delegation of Chinese mutual fund CEOs participating in the Penn-China Mutual Fund CEO Leadership Program, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Some of Mr. Caliendo's other published works include: Co-Author: "Who Says The Business Judgment Rule Does Not Apply To Directors Of New York Banks?" 118 *Banking Law Journal* 493 (June 2001); and Co-Author: "Board of Directors' 'Revlon Duties' Come Into Focus", *New York Law Journal*, vol. 222, no. 86, col. 1 (Nov. 1, 1999).

Mr. Caliendo received his B.S. from Cornell University and J.D. from St. John's University School of Law where he was an editor of the *St. John's Law Review* and a Saint Thomas More Scholar.

Leslie A. Conason

Ms. Conason is a Senior Counsel with Grant & Eisenhofer's New York City office. Her practice focuses on securities litigation and corporate governance actions on behalf of public and private funds in class and individual actions. Prior to joining G&E, Ms. Conason was responsible for managing all securities litigation for the City of New York, where she was in charge of securities litigation for the \$100 billion in pension assets held by the workers and retirees for the City of New York. During her tenure, the New York City Pension Funds gained a national reputation for the responsible, creative and proactive use of securities litigation to maximize recoveries on losses due to corporate wrongdoing and for effecting significant improvements in corporate governance of the companies at issue. In the landmark class action *In re Cendant Corporation*, the New York City Pension Funds served as Lead Plaintiff and were instrumental in obtaining a \$3.2 billion recovery for the class, the highest settlement in a class at that time.

While running securities litigation for the City of New York, Ms. Conason's primary goal was to ensure that the cases filed by the NYC Pension Funds were client driven and not initiated and settled for the benefit of plaintiffs' class action lawyers. As counsel to the NYC Pension Funds, Ms. Conason entered the battle for lead plaintiff in numerous major cases. By filing individual cases in select instances, such as *Bristol-Myers Squibb* and *Qwest Communications*, the New York City Pension Funds recovered more than 13 times what they would have recovered had they remained as members of the class. When viewed as a percentage of provable damages, New York City's settlement represented by far the best outcome out of the hundreds of *WorldCom* cases filed.

Prior to her tenure with the City of New York, Ms. Conason was a litigator in the New York headquarters of the well-known international corporate law firm of Weil Gotshal & Manges. She has also been associated with a number of litigation boutiques specializing in public policy issues.

Ms. Conason graduated *magna cum laude* from the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University, received a master's degree in English Literature from the University of Chicago and her law degree from Fordham University School of Law. Ms. Conason was a Law Clerk to the Honorable Charles L. Brieant, Jr., former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

She is a member of the Securities Litigation Working Group of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, is a member of various bar and professional associations and has written and lectured widely on securities fraud litigation from the institutional investor's point of view.

Reuben Guttman

Reuben Guttman's practice involves complex litigation and class actions. He has represented clients in claims brought under the Federal False Claims Act, securities laws, the Price Anderson Act, Department of Energy (DOE) statutes and regulations, the WARN Act, RICO, and various employment discrimination, labor and environmental statutes. He has also litigated and/or tried claims involving fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, antitrust, business interference, and other common law torts.

Mr. Guttman has been counsel in some of the largest recoveries under the Federal False Claims Act, including *U.S. ex rel. Johnson v. Shell Oil Co.*, 33 F. Supp. 2d 528 (ED Tex. 1999), where over \$300 million were recovered from the oil industry. He served as lead counsel in a series of cases that resulted in the recovery of more than \$30 million under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Litigation brought by Mr. Guttman on behalf of nuclear weapons workers at "Manhattan Project" nuclear weapons sites resulted in congressional oversight and changes in procurement practices affecting the nation's nuclear weapons complex. In addition, he served as lead counsel in litigation brought on behalf of prison workers in the District of Columbia, which resulted in injunctive relief protecting workers against exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Mr. Guttman served as lead counsel in a mediation before the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, resulting in work place standards and back pay for minority employees at a large Texas oil refinery.

Mr. Guttman is the author and editor of dozens of articles and scholarly works. He has appeared on *ABC Nightly News* and CNN, and has been quoted in major publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *USA Today*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Dallas Morning News*, and national wire services including the Associated Press and Reuters. In addition to his writings, Mr. Guttman has testified before committees of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate on the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). In 1992, he advised President-elect Clinton's transition team on labor policy and worker health and safety regulation.

Mr. Guttman earned his law degree at Emory University Law School in 1985, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester. He is a faculty member at the Emory University School of Law Edison-Kessler Trial Advocacy Program and is a founding member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Qui Tam Litigation Committee. He has been a guest lecturer at a number of universities including Jao Tong University in Shanghai, Peking University in Beijing and Renmin University in Shanghai. In 2006 he was invited by the Dutch Embassy in China to share his expertise with experts in China about changes to the nation's labor laws.

Ann Lugbill

Ann Lugbill has represented dozens of plaintiffs in False Claims Act qui tam, whistleblower, class action, corporate securities fraud, and employment-related cases for over 20 years. At Grant & Eisenhofer, Ms. Lugbill works on False Claims Act qui tam litigation involving whistleblowers who expose corporate fraud and abuse.

Ms. Lugbill co-authored *False Claims Act: Whistleblower Litigation* (Michie 1st Ed. 1994, Lexis, 2d Ed. 1999) and *Representing the Terminated Employee in Ohio* (Anderson 2d Ed. 1997, Supp. 2004), as well as articles on employment law, legal ethics, and attorneys' fees. Ms. Lugbill filed Jack Gravitt's pioneering False Claims Act qui tam case in 1984 and was featured in a Mike Wallace "60 Minutes" segment on her qui tam case involving false certifications as to the Buy America Act. She has been counsel in dozens of qui tam cases, co-counseling cases throughout the United States, including in Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Nebraska, Illinois, Kentucky, and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Lugbill earned her law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1980, and her Bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After law school, she worked for the United States Government as an attorney and then entered private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio.

An active leader in the Ohio legal community, Ms. Lugbill was a founding member and officer of the Ohio Employment Lawyers Association and Chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association Grievance Committee from 2003-2005. She continues to serve as co-chair of the Josh Morrow Workplace Fairness Fund, a nonprofit fund that provides costs for employment plaintiffs and whistleblowers in meritorious cases.

Mary S. Thomas

Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer in 2006, Mary Thomas gained a 12-year track record in business litigation with two of Los Angeles' leading law firms. Her practice included trade secret and intellectual property matters, contract actions, employment defense, consumer class action defense, insurance disputes and environmental matters.

Ms. Thomas co-authored "California Wage and Hour Laws" (published by the National Legal Center for the Public Interest, January 2005). She was also one of several authors of the 10th and 11th editions of the *California Environmental Law Handbook*. She also served as a volunteer arbitrator for the L.A. County Bar Association and as a volunteer mediator for the L.A. Superior Court.

A *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School, Ms. Thomas earned her Bachelors Degree from the University of Delaware. After more than a decade practicing on the West Coast, she is pleased to be back in her home community.

Lesley Weaver

Lesley Weaver is Senior Counsel in G&E's Wilmington office, focusing on the litigation and management of complex class actions in federal and state courts. Her practice focuses on federal securities actions against public companies on behalf of pension funds and institutional shareholders. Ms. Weaver has extensive experience with motion practice, oral argument, developing and implementing discovery strategy, as well as deposition, expert discovery and case resolution.

Ms. Weaver has been involved in many notable decisions and settlements, including *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Securities Litigation*, *Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 572 Pension Fund v. Cisco Systems*, *In re Boeing Securities Litigation*, *In re NorthPoint Securities Litigation*, *In re CommTouch Securities Litigation*, *In re Vicuron Securities Litigation*, and *In re Cavanaugh*.

Ms. Weaver earned her law degree in 1997 from the University of Virginia School of Law, after graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard University. Ms. Weaver is fluent in German and Danish, and speaks some Swedish and French.

Diane Zilka

A Senior Counsel with G&E, Ms. Zilka is integral to G&E's successful efforts to prosecute securities fraud and corporate governance cases on behalf of public and private funds in class and individual actions. She played a key role in achieving significant recoveries for funds managed by private institutional investors in *Styling Technology Corporation* and on behalf of the State of Wisconsin Investment Board and the other class members in *Just For Feet Securities Litigation*. Ms. Zilka was part of the trial team in *Safety Kleen Bondholder Litigation* that recovered more than \$275 million in judgments and settlements on behalf of investors. She represents United Kingdom private pension funds and others as lead plaintiffs in *In re Parmalat Securities Litigation* and German, Swiss, and Norwegian institutional investors in securities fraud actions against Vivendi S.A. In the corporate governance arena, Ms. Zilka has successfully defended the State of Connecticut pension funds before the SEC in a challenge by the Disney Corporation to the funds' corporate governance proxy proposal. She is currently part of the team pursuing breach of fiduciary duty claims against officers and directors of American International Group and Countrywide Financial Corporation. Ms. Zilka co-authored, with Stuart Grant, "The Role of Foreign Investors in Federal Securities Class Actions," 1442 PLI/CORP. 91 (2004) and "The Current Role Of Foreign Investors In Federal Securities Class Actions," 1620 PLI/Corp 11 (2007).

Ms. Zilka has concentrated her career in securities, corporate and complex commercial litigation. Before joining G&E, she was a partner in a New York City law firm and a member of its investor protection practice group. In addition to securities fraud and corporate governance matters, Ms. Zilka has extensive experience litigating a wide range of other complex matters, including mergers and acquisitions, proxy disclosures and contests, limited partnership issues, ERISA and bankruptcy matters. She has also represented investors in proceedings before the New York Stock Exchange and the American Arbitration Association.

Ms. Zilka is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton (1982) and Fordham University School of Law (1985). She is a member of the American, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York State Bar Associations and a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. She volunteers with Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults in Delaware and has enjoyed being a "Big Sister" with Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Philadelphia.

Stephen K. Benjamin

Stephen K. Benjamin brings to Grant & Eisenhofer an extensive career in law, business, politics, government and civic life. In January 1999, South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges appointed Mr. Benjamin to the Governor's Cabinet. The South Carolina Senate unanimously confirmed his appointment as Director of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, where he served as Chief Executive of the 950 employee, state law enforcement agency.

Prior to accepting his Cabinet appointment, Mr. Benjamin served as Regional Manager of Public Affairs for International Paper Company, where he managed the company's legislative and public affairs activities in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. Prior to joining International Paper, he was Manager of Corporate Affairs at Carolina Power & Light Company, and served an Associate in the Administrative and Regulatory practice of the prominent McNair Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina. He has also served as an assistant prosecutor in South Carolina's 4th Judicial Circuit.

The South Carolina Bar Association named him a co-recipient of the 2001 Young Lawyer of the Year and he is a recipient of the 2000 Compleat Lawyer Award given by the University of South Carolina School of Law. In 1999 the National Bar Association named him the National Young Lawyer of the Year and the University of South Carolina recognized him as Young Alumni of the Year. He is the recipient of the Lincoln C. Jenkins, Jr. Award given by the Columbia (SC) Urban League for accomplishments as a young professional and was featured as one of Ebony Magazine's 30 Leaders of the Future.

Steve Benjamin's community leadership experiences are extensive. Currently, he sits on the University of South Carolina School of Law Partnership Board, the Boards of Directors of the USC Development Foundation, The Columbia Urban League, The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He serves as the Chair-Elect of the Midlands Education and Business Alliance and as a Statewide Co-Chair of Choose Children First.

Mr. Benjamin received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of South Carolina in 1991, and his J.D. Degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994.

Jeff A. Almeida

At Grant & Eisenhofer, Jeff Almeida has represented shareholders in several securities fraud actions against Fortune 500 companies, as well as being involved in derivative litigation and litigation involving illegal or abusive tax shelters. Prior to joining G&E in August 2004, Mr. Almeida was associated for seven years as an attorney with a major Philadelphia law firm, where he practiced in the complex commercial litigation department focusing on class action litigation, commercial contracts, and insurance defense.

Mr. Almeida is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut (*Phi Beta Kappa*, 1994) and William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia (1997). Mr. Almeida is a member of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and American Bar Associations.

Naumon A. Amjed

Naumon A. Amjed concentrates his practice in complex securities fraud litigation in both class action and opt-out cases. At Grant & Eisenhofer, he is involved in the representation of institutional investors in securities fraud actions related to scandals at Enron and Global Crossing. Mr. Amjed is also currently involved in prosecuting securities fraud class action lawsuits against Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., Pfizer Inc., and Alstom SA, among others.

Mr. Amjed is a graduate of the Villanova University School of Law (*cum laude* 2003), where he was a quarterfinalist in the Reimel Moot Court Competition and President of the Corporate Law Society. While in law school, Mr. Amjed served as an extern for the Honorable Pamela Pryor Dembe of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County. His charitable activities included active participation in the Villanova University School of Law's Public Interest Fellowship Society and the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Mr. Amjed currently serves as a board member on the Villanova University School of Law Minority Alumni Society. Mr. Amjed holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Temple University (*cum laude* 2000), where he double majored in Finance and Economics. As an undergraduate, Mr. Amjed gained business experience interning at Morgan Stanley and Towers Perrin.

Peter B. Andrews

Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer, Peter B. Andrews was a law clerk for the Honorable Alan M. Black of the Court of Common Pleas, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He then joined a large Philadelphia law firm where his practice primarily consisted of representing securities broker-dealers, registered representatives, and investment advisors in federal and state litigation, as well as in arbitrations before the NASD, NYSE, and American Arbitration Association. Mr. Andrews also has experience related to employment disputes and restrictive covenants, ERISA, and the representation of insurance brokers.

Mr. Andrews has authored several articles for publication, including: “New Disclosure Requirements for Brokered CD’s” (co-author), *The Source (Financial Planning Association Newsletter)*, December 2002.

Peter Andrews is a 1998 graduate of The Dickinson School of Law, and a 1992 graduate of Colby College, where he majored in economics. Mr. Andrews is a member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

James R. Banko

James Banko practices in the areas of corporate, securities, and complex commercial litigation and has concentrated his practice primarily in the Commercial Part of the New York Supreme Court in cases involving shareholder rights and securities fraud. Mr. Banko represents sophisticated institutional investors in a high-profile securities fraud class action – *In re Tyco International, Ltd. Securities Litigation* – as well as in an “opt out” action involving, *inter alia*, allegations against Bristol-Myers and several officers and directors.

Mr. Banko is one of the authors of “Securities Fraud, Stock Price Valuation, and Loss Causation: Toward a Corporate Finance–Based Theory of Loss Causation,” by Jay W. Eisenhofer, Geoffrey C. Jarvis, and James R. Banko, published in *The Business Lawyer*; Vol. 59.

Mr. Banko graduated from Reed College (1981), the New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (1987) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law (1990), where he was a member of the Journal of International Business Law.

Ananda N. Chaudhuri

At G&E, Ananda Chaudhuri focuses on securities litigation and deceptive advertising. He received his law degree in 2005 from University of Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the Journal of International Law and Policy and a member of the Film, Music & Media Society.

Mr. Chaudhuri received his BA in Journalism and Anthropology from New York University. Mr. Chaudhuri's experience includes positions as a Summer Associate at Adkins, Kelston, Zavez, P.C. in Boston, and research and writing positions at Pennsylvania Employment Law Publishing (Philadelphia), *Self Magazine*, and *Working Woman* magazine in New York City.

P. Bradford deLeeuw

Brad deLeeuw concentrates his practice in complex securities litigation, including class action litigation, shareholder derivative litigation and opt-out actions on behalf of institutional shareholders. Mr. deLeeuw was substantially involved in G&E's representation of a large public pension fund's litigation against Siebel Systems, Inc. The suit resulted in the return of stock options worth an estimated \$56 million and the institution of substantial executive compensation and corporate governance reforms. Mr. deLeeuw also counsels clients seeking to foster corporate

governance reforms by means of shareholder proposals and exempt solicitations under the Proxy Rules. Previously, Mr. deLeeuw advised clients with respect to diverse securities law issues, such as the formation and operation of domestic and offshore alternative investment vehicles and compliance with disclosure and regulatory reporting obligations.

Mr. deLeeuw is a graduate of Wake Forest University (1993, B.A. Economics), Washington and Lee University School of Law (1996, J.D.) and Georgetown University Law Center (2000, L.L.M. Securities and Financial Regulation, *with distinction*).

Lydia Ferrarese

Lydia Ferrarese is involved in the G&E legal team defending equity holders in the Parmalat class action litigation against financial institutions and against directors and statutory auditors for international fraud in violation of securities laws and regulations.

Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer, Ms. Ferrarese (who received her initial law degree in Italy) served as a visiting attorney with several prominent law firms in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. She was also an Associate at firms in Milano and Bologna, Italy. Ms. Ferrarese drafted numerous agreements and opinions on corporate issues for major Italian and multinational corporations, focusing on Mergers and Acquisitions. In 1996, Ms. Ferrarese served as an Assistant Professor of Civil Law at the Ariosto School in Bologna, Italy.

Ms. Ferrarese received her LL.M. in Corporate, Banking and Finance Law at Fordham University School of Law in New York City, and her J.D. equivalent from the University of Bologna, Italy in 1993. She was a contributing writer and editor of the “*Guide for the Italian Importer to the United States*” by Michael Doland, 2000, and editor of the article, “Dissolution of a corporation and minority shareholders’ rights” *Le Societa’*, *Ipsoa*, May 2001.

Christine Mackintosh

Christine Mackintosh adds depth and experience to G&E’s complex litigation and trial capabilities. As a member of the Litigation Practice Group of a large Philadelphia law firm, she gained extensive experience in commercial litigation, insurance recovery, securities litigation and bankruptcy litigation. She acted as lead counsel in several bankruptcy and commercial litigation cases, and served as lead trial counsel in a case brought before the US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of PA.

A graduate of St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia (*magna cum laude*), Ms. Mackintosh earned her law degree at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is the co-author of two articles published by the Practising Law Institute’s *Corporate Law & Practice Course Handbook Series*. “Ethical Issues and Their Impact on Securities Litigation,” published in September-October, 2003, was co-authored with Marc J. Sonnenfeld, Viveca D. Parker and Marisel Acosta. “Lessons From Sarbanes-Oxley: The Importance of Independence In Internal Corporate Investigations,” published in July, 2003, was co-authored with Alfred J. Lechner, Jr.

Ms. Mackintosh is a member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

Jonathan D. Margolis

Jonathan Margolis' practice at Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. focuses on securities litigation and corporate governance. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Margolis spent almost a decade litigating corporate and securities cases with the Business & Securities Litigation department at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York, where he focused on securities, corporate and other complex commercial litigation as well as corporate governance and other corporate counseling.

Jonathan is the co-author of numerous articles, including: "SLUSA And the Power of Federal Courts to Stay Discovery in State Court," *Business & Securities Litigator*, October 2003; "Summary Judgment Issues, Current Developments in Federal Civil Practice," 691 *PLI/CORP.* 193 (2003); "The SEC's Attempt to Regulate Attorney-Client Privilege in its Proposed Attorney Conduct Rules," *Business & Securities Litigator*, January 2003; "Disclosing Illegal Conduct of Public Corporations," *New York Law Journal*, February, 2001; and "Summary Judgment Issues, Current Developments in Federal Civil Practice," 675 *PLI/CORP.* 269 (2002). He is also acknowledged as a contributor to: "Summary Judgment Issues, Current Developments in Federal Civil Practice," by Joseph S. Allerhand, 653 *PLI/CORP.* 491 (2001); and "Avoiding Securities Law Liability for a Company's Web Site," by Mary Lou Peters, *Insights*, April 1999.

Mr. Margolis obtained his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1998 and his B.A. in History (with a focus in religious history) from Washington University in St. Louis in 1995. While studying, he worked summers at the Securities and Exchange Commission, as a clerk to the United States Supreme Court, at the Queens District Attorney's Office and at a plaintiffs' law firm. During the school year, he worked as a law clerk at several plaintiffs' law firms and as a member of the D.C. Law Students in Court program, a legal clinic and United Way charity. Staffed by law students from five of Washington, D.C.'s law schools, the D.C. Law Students in Court program provides legal services to the poor.

James P. McEvilly, III

Jim McEvilly is a seasoned litigator who practices in the areas of securities, corporate governance and complex commercial litigation. At Grant & Eisenhofer, he has successfully represented institutional clients in federal and state courts throughout the United States. Mr. McEvilly played a primary role in recovering in excess of \$48 million in a securities class action on behalf of a class of bond holders in Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. in the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and is currently playing a lead role in a securities opt-out case on behalf of institutional investors in DVI, Inc. in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. McEvilly is also involved in representing lead plaintiffs in G&E's large complex securities class actions, including *In re Marsh & McClennan Companies, Inc.* pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and *In re Tyco*, pending in the District of New Hampshire. In addition to his involvement in securities class actions, Mr. McEvilly also represented seat holders in the New York Stock Exchange Merger Litigation in the Supreme Court of the State of New York and institutional investors in the Caremark/CVS Merger Litigation in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware.

Prior to joining G&E, Mr. McEvilly was a litigator at a prominent litigation boutique in Philadelphia, where he represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of complex litigation matters and controversies of significant public interest. Prior to that, Mr. McEvilly was an associate at a large defense firm in Philadelphia.

Mr. McEvilly graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 with a B.A. degree in Political Science. He received his J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994. Mr. McEvilly also served in the United States Army for two years in an armored division in Western Europe.

Sharan Nirmul

Sharan Nirmul's practice at Grant & Eisenhofer, P.A. focuses on securities litigation and corporate governance. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Nirmul practiced commercial litigation with a major New York City law firm.

Mr. Nirmul is a graduate of Cornell University (B.S. 1996) and the George Washington University Law School (J.D. 2001). While in law school Mr. Nirmul served as articles editor for the law school's environmental law journal, *the Environmental Lawyer*, and was a member of the Moot Court Board. He was a legal fellow in the Immigration Clinic of the law school's Community Legal Clinics and participated in the International Human Rights Law Program at Oxford University in the summer of 1999. In May 2001, he was awarded the law school's Richard M. Lewis Memorial Award for excellence in clinical practice.

Catherine Pratsinakis

Catherine Pratsinakis has been involved in numerous complex litigations involving multi-national Fortune 500 companies, in matters relating to securities fraud, shareholder disputes, breach of contract, merger disputes, accounting malpractice, and antitrust violations. She has represented several major airlines in bankruptcy litigation and assisted in the bankruptcy court-appointed examination of a major nursing home health system. Mrs. Pratsinakis has been involved in a number of pro bono activities, including Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA); Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project; and Philadelphia's Volunteer for the Indigent Program (VIP). She has represented the interests of less fortunate individuals in matters involving bankruptcy, inheritance tax, income tax, real estate, landlord-tenant, as well as other legal matters.

Mrs. Pratsinakis obtained her J.D., with honors, from the Rutgers University School of Law - Camden (2001) where she made Law Review and served on the editorial staff of the *Rutgers Law Journal*. She obtained her MBA, with honors, from Rutgers University School of Business (2001) where she concentrated on finance and global management. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Maryland- College Park (1993).

Mrs. Pratsinakis served as editor of the *Philadelphia Bar Reporter* in 2003. Her published articles include: "American Sports as a Target for Terrorism: the Duty of Care After 9/11" "Multinational Jurisdictional and Procedural Issues Created By the World Wide Web: Litigation in a World without Boundaries" *Insurance for Techno-Torts, Intellectual Property, and Unfair Business Practices Course Book*, DRI.

Ralph N. Sianni

For over ten years, Mr. Sianni has focused on complex commercial litigation. He joined G&E from another leading national securities litigation firm, where he handled class action securities litigation cases, and cases involving mergers and acquisitions, general corporate law and breach of fiduciary duties. His trial experience includes the preparation of motions pleadings and briefs for cases before the U.S. Third Circuit Court and U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Sianni recently co-authored the article, "Is the Fix In? - Are Hedge Funds Secretly Disenfranchising Shareholders?", *Bloomberg Law Reports - Corporate Governance*, January 2005; In the *Boston University Public Interest Law Journal*, he published a Case Comment on *Claremont School District v Governor*, concerning the right of low-income school districts to acquire facilities under the NH State Constitution.

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Sianni served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., President Judge of Pennsylvania Superior Court. As a Legislative Intern for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, he researched and wrote memoranda on First Amendment issues for the PA legislature.

Mr. Sianni earned his law degree from the Boston University School of Law and his Masters Degree in History from Yale University. He graduated *cum laude* with distinction in his major (history) from the University of Pennsylvania.

Hung G. Ta

Hung Ta is an Associate in Grant & Eisenhofer's New York Office, where he focuses on securities litigation and shareholder derivative litigation on behalf of our institutional investor clients.

Prior to joining G&E, Mr. Ta spent more than six years as a litigation associate at a leading New York law firm, where he represented a considerable number of officers and other clients of the firm in securities litigation, white-collar defense work and regulatory investigations. Mr. Ta also represented other clients of the firm in general commercial litigation matters involving bankruptcy, reinsurance, professional malpractice, mutual fund litigation and ERISA litigation.

Before coming to the United States, Mr. Ta completed his education in Australia, earning a degree in Finance from the University of New South Wales School of Commerce and his Law degree from the University of New South Wales School of Law. After law school, Mr. Ta clerked with the Honorable Justice Gaudron of the High Court of Australia, Australia's ultimate appellate court.

Marc D. Weinberg

Prior to joining Grant & Eisenhofer in 2006, Marc Weinberg gained a 14-year track record with two of the nation's leading securities litigation firms. He focuses on institutional services at Grant & Eisenhofer.

Mr. Weinberg earned his law degree at Widener University in 1992, after graduating from Pennsylvania State University. He is a member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, and the Moot Court Honor Society.

Selected Institutional Client Representations

G&E has represented or is currently representing a number of institutional investors in major securities fraud actions, shareholder derivative suits, other breach-of-fiduciary-duty cases and related ancillary proceedings around the country. Some of our cases include:

(A) In Securities Fraud Litigation:

(1) Cellstar

In one of the earliest cases filed after the enactment of PSLRA, the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (“SWIB”) was designated lead plaintiff and G&E was appointed lead counsel in Gluck v. CellStar Corp., 976 F.Supp. 542 (N.D.Tex. 1997). The cited opinion is widely considered the landmark on standards applicable to the lead plaintiff/lead counsel practice under PSLRA. (See, especially, In re Cendant Corp. Litig., 2001 WL 980469, at *40, *43 (3d Cir. Aug. 28, 2001), citing CellStar.) After the CellStar defendants’ motion to dismiss failed and a round of discovery was completed, the parties negotiated a \$14.6 million settlement, coupled with undertakings on CellStar’s part for significant corporate governance changes as well. With SWIB’s active lead in the case, the class recovery, gross before fees and expenses, was approximated to be 56% of the class’ actual loss claims, about 4 times the historical 14% average gross recovery in securities fraud litigation. Because of the competitive process that SWIB had undertaken in the selection of counsel, resulting in a contingent fee percentage significantly less than the average 31% seen historically, the net recovery to the class after all claims were submitted came to almost 50% of actual losses, or almost 5 times the average net recovery.

(2) DaimlerChrysler

Florida State Board of Administration (“FSBA”) was appointed lead plaintiff and G&E co-lead counsel in the PSLRA class action on behalf of shareholders of the former Chrysler Corporation who exchanged their shares for stock in DaimlerChrysler in Chrysler’s 1998 business combination with Daimler-Benz AG which was represented at the time as a “merger of equals.” On February 5, 2004, the court granted final approval of a \$300 million cash settlement in that case, among the largest securities class action settlements since the enactment of the PSLRA. In re DaimlerChrysler Securities Litigation, D. Del., C.A. No. 00-0993.

(3) Oxford Health Plans

Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado ("ColPERA") engaged G&E to represent it to seek the lead plaintiff designation in the numerous securities fraud actions that were consolidated into In re Oxford Health Plans, Inc., Securities Litig., S.D.N.Y., MDL Docket No. 1222 (CLB). The court ordered the appointment of ColPERA as a co-lead plaintiff and G&E as a co-lead counsel. G&E and its co-leads filed the Consolidated Amended Complaint. Memorandum opinions and orders were entered denying defendants' motions to dismiss (see 51 F.Supp. 2d 290 (May 28, 1999) (denying KPMG motion) and 187 F.R.D. 133 (June 8, 1999) (denying motion of Oxford and individual director defendants)). The case settled for \$300 million, another settlement negotiated by G&E that is among the largest settlements since the enactment of the PSLRA.

(4) Dollar General

The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee ordered the appointment of Florida State Board of Administration ("FSBA") and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL") as lead plaintiffs and G&E as co-lead counsel in a PSLRA and Rule 10b-5 case against the defendant company, its accountants, and individual insiders who allegedly issued false and misleading statements over an alleged 3-year Class Period and failed to disclose adverse facts about the company's financial results. Settlements were approved involving a cash payment of \$162 million from the company and the individual defendants, an additional \$10.5 million from Deloitte & Touche, LLP (Dollar General's accountants), and beneficial governance reforms for Dollar General. In re Dollar General Securities Litigation, M.D. Tenn., No. 3:01-0388, orders dated July 19, 2001 and September 29, 2003.

(5) Just For Feet

G&E represented the State of Wisconsin Investment Board ("SWIB") in a federal securities class action against certain officers and directors of Just For Feet, Inc., and against Just For Feet's auditors, in the Northern District of Alabama. That action arose out of the defendants' manipulation of the company's accounting practices to materially misstate the company's financial results. Having been appointed co-lead plaintiff, SWIB and (G&E) as its counsel took primary responsibility for the case. (SWIB v. Ruttenberg, et al., N.D. Ala., CV 99-BU-3097-S and 99-BU-3129-S, 102 F. Supp. 2d 1280 (N.D. Ala. 2000)). SWIB obtained a policy limits settlement with the individual defendants' D&O carrier and an additional \$7.4 million from Just For Feet's auditor, for a recovery totaling approximately \$32 million.

(6) Waste Management

G&E filed a non-class federal securities action against Waste Management, Inc., its former and current directors, and the company's accountants in the Northern District of Florida, on behalf of Lens Investment Management, LLC and Ram Trust Services, Inc. The complaint alleged that Waste Management had, over a five-year period, issued financial statements and other public statements that were materially false and misleading due to the defendants' fraudulent and improper accounting manipulations. G&E also filed non-class actions in Illinois state court, asserting similar claims on behalf of the Florida State Board of Administration ("FSBA") and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL"). After G&E successfully defeated the defendants' motions to dismiss FSBA's complaint in state court, FSBA's cause of action was transferred to the Northern District of Florida. At the point where there were competing motions for summary judgment pending, G&E successfully negotiated a settlement pursuant to which each plaintiff received several times what it would have received in the class action. Florida State Board of Administration, Ram Trust Services, Inc. and Lens Investment Management, LLC v. Waste Management, Inc., et al., N.D.Fla., No. 4:99CV66-WS, amended complaint filed June 21, 1999; and Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana v. Waste Management, Inc., et al., Circuit Ct., Cook Co. [Ill.], No. 98 L 06034, complaint filed May 18, 1999.

(7) Total Renal Care

In June 1999, the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System ("LASERS") and Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL") were appointed as Lead Plaintiff in a federal securities class action against Total Renal Care ("TRC") and certain of its officers and directors, pending in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. G&E was approved as Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel. Plaintiffs filed their Corrected Consolidated Amended Complaint against the defendants, alleging, inter alia, that the defendants manipulated TRC's financial statements so as to materially overstate TRC's revenues, income and assets and to artificially inflate TRC's stock price. G&E negotiated a settlement requiring TRC's payment of \$25 million into a settlement fund for the class and the company's adoption of certain internal corporate governance policies and procedures designed to promote the future accountability of TRC's management to its stockholders. At the time of the settlement, this amount represented 33% of the value of the Company's shares. In re Total Renal Care Securities Litigation, C.D. Cal., Master File No. CV-99-01745 CBM.

(8) Safety-Kleen

G&E was sole lead counsel for the plaintiffs in a federal securities class action and a series of related individual actions against former officers, directors, auditors and underwriters of Safety-Kleen Corporation, who are alleged to have made false and misleading statements in connection with the sale and issuance of Safety-Kleen bonds. In re Safety-Kleen Corp. Bondholders Litig., D.S.C., No. 3:00-CV-1145-17, consolidated complaint filed January 23, 2001. In March of 2005, after a jury had been selected for trial, the auditor defendant settled with the class and individual claimants for \$48 million. The trial then proceeded against the director and officer defendants. After seven weeks of trial, the director defendants settled for \$36 million, and the court entered judgment as a matter of law in favor of the class and against the company's CEO and CFO, awarding damages of over \$190 million.

(9) Styling Technology Corporation

G&E represented funds managed by Franklin Advisors, Inc., Conseco Capital Management, Inc., Credit Suisse Asset Management, Pilgrim American Funds and OppenheimerFunds, Inc. in a securities action brought in May 2001, asserting both federal (1933 Act) and state claims brought in the Superior Court of California. The suit alleged that certain former officers, as well as the independent auditors, of Styling Technology Corporation made false and misleading statements in connection with the sale and issuance of Styling Technology bonds. Styling Technology filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 in August 1999. In October 2000, discovery of accounting irregularities and improperly recognized revenue forced the Company to restate its financial statements for the years 1997 and 1998. Plaintiffs, owning \$66.5 million of the total \$100 million in bonds sold in the offering, settled the case for a recovery representing approximately 46% of the losses suffered by the client funds that they manage. Franklin High Income Trust, et al. v. Richard R. Ross, et al., Cal. Super., San Mateo Co. [Calif.], Case No: 415057, complaint filed November 28, 2000.

(10) Tyco

G&E is co-lead counsel representing co-lead plaintiffs Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System in a securities class against Tyco International Ltd. and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In October 2004, the Court denied in large part the defendants' motions to dismiss. In re Tyco International Sec. Litig., MDL Docket No. 1335.

(11) Global Crossing

Ohio Public Employees' Retirement System ("Ohio PERS") and the Ohio Teachers' Retirement System ("STRS") were appointed lead plaintiff and G&E was appointed sole lead counsel in a securities class action against Global Crossing, Ltd. and Asia Global Crossing, Ltd. In re Global Crossing, Ltd. Securities & "ERISA" Litig., MDL Docket No. 1472. In November 2004, the Court approved a partial settlement with the Company's former officers and directors, and former outside counsel, valued at approximately \$245 million. In July, 2005 the Court approved a \$75 million settlement with the Citigroup-related defendants (Salomon Smith Barney and Jack Grubman). In October 2005, the Court approved a settlement with Arthur Anderson LLP and all Anderson-related defendants for \$25 million, bringing the total of partial settlements in this case to \$345 million. The case is still proceeding against other defendants.

(12) Telxon Corporation

G&E filed a federal securities and common law action against Telxon Corporation, its former officers and directors and its accountants in the Northern District of Ohio on behalf of Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc., an investment management firm. Following mediation, G&E negotiated a settlement of all claims. Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc. v. Telxon Corp., et al., N.D. Ohio, Case No. 5:02CV1105.

(13) Hayes Lemmerz

G&E served as lead counsel to plaintiffs and class members who purchased or acquired over \$1 billion in bonds issued by Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. G&E negotiated a settlement worth \$51 million. Pacholder High Yield Fund, Inc. et al. v. Ranko Cucoz et al., E.D. Mich., C.A. No. 02-71778.

(14) Enron/Worldcom

In 2001, G&E, on behalf of various Ohio public pension funds, filed opt-out actions which remain pending. Public Employees' Retirement System of Ohio v. Ebberts, et al., S.D.N.Y. No. 03-Civ-0338; Public Employees' Retirement System of Ohio v. Fustow, et al., S.D. Tex. No. H-02-4788.

(15) Asia Pulp and Paper

On behalf of bondholders of various subsidiaries of Indonesian paper-making giant Asia Pulp and Paper ("APP"), G&E filed an action alleging that the bondholders were defrauded by APP's financial statements which were inflated by nearly \$1 billion in fictitious sales. Defendants' motions to dismiss were denied. Franklin High Income Trust, et al. v. APP Global Ltd., et al., N.Y. Sup. Ct., Trial Div., Index No. 02-602567. The matter was resolved through a confidential settlement several years ago.

(16) Babcock Borsig

G&E filed suit against German company Babcock Borsig, AG alleging that Babcock's CEO, in concert with officers of Babcock's largest shareholder, German conglomerate TUI, devised a plan to overstate Babcock's income through improper use of an accounting device relating to a Babcock subsidiary. The suit was filed on behalf of Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc.. Defendants' motions to dismiss were granted and the case had been terminated. Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc. v. Babcock Borsig, A.G., et al., N.Y.Sup. Ct., Trial Div., Index No. 603364/02.

(17) Alstom

In January 2004, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System was appointed as co-lead plaintiff and G&E was appointed co-lead counsel in a class action against Alstom SA, a French corporation engaged in power generation, transmission and distribution in France. The suit alleges that Alstom and other defendants made false and misleading statements concerning the growth and financial performance of its transportation subsidiary. Motions to dismiss were denied in part and granted in part and an amended complaint has been filed. In re Alstom SA Sec. Litig., S.D.N.Y. 03-cv-6595. Motions to dismiss regarding the amended complaint are pending.

(18) Parmalat

G&E is co-lead counsel in this securities class action arising out of a multi-billion dollar fraud at Parmalat, which the SEC has described as "one of the largest and most brazen corporate financial frauds in history." The court has recently denied the motions to dismiss filed by the company's auditors, including their international affiliates. In re Parmalat Securities Litig., S.D.N.Y. 04-MDL-1653.

(19) Marsh & McLennan

G&E is co-lead counsel for the class of former Marsh & McLennan shareholders in this federal securities class action alleging that the company, its officers, directors, auditors, and underwriters participated in a fraudulent scheme involving, among other things, bid-rigging and secret agreements to steer business to certain insurance companies in exchange for "kick-back" commissions. In re Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Sec. Litig., S.D.N.Y. 04-cv-8144.

(20) Hollinger International

G&E is co-lead counsel in this securities class action arising out of a company scandal at Hollinger International, Inc. which involves payment of millions of dollars to certain executives, including the company's former CEO, Lord Conrad Black, relating to sales of company assets. Motions to dismiss the action are pending and a resolution is expected within the next month. Hollinger International Securities Litigation, N.D. Ill. 04-C-0834.

(21) **Redback**

G&E is serving as lead counsel for the class in this securities action pending against Redback Networks Inc. The class claims that the former officers and directors of Redback deliberately inflated the price of Redback stock to artificially high levels by providing undisclosed multi-million dollar stock bribes and quid pro-quo purchases to Quest Communications International, in exchange for widely publicized, multi-million dollar equipment purchases. The court recently ruled that Plaintiffs had sufficiently alleged that improper transactions had occurred and had adequately alleged the defendants' scienter, but dismissed with leave to amend to clarify the nature of Plaintiffs loss and how it was caused by defendants' conduct. An amended complaint will be filed by May, 19, 2006. In re Redback Networks Inc. Securities Litigation, N.D.Cal., No. C-03-05642.

(22) **Delphi**

Delphi is an automotive company that was spun off of General Motors. The company failed as a stand-alone entity. However, the company concealed that it had failed. G&E's client is one of the largest pension funds in the world and is a lead plaintiff and G&E serves as a co-lead counsel in the case. In re Delphi Corporation Securities Derivative & ERISA Litigation, E.D. Mich., MDL No. 1725.

(23) **Refco**

A mere two months after going public, Refco admitted that its financials were unreliable because the company had concealed hundreds of millions of dollars of uncollectible receivables were owed to the company by an off-balance sheet entity owned by the company's CEO. G&E serves as a co-lead counsel and our client is a co-lead plaintiff. In re Refco, Inc. Securities Litigation, S.D.N.Y., No. 05 Civ. 8626.

(B) In Derivative and Other Corporate Litigation:**(1) Digex**

This case resulted in a settlement of over \$400 million, the largest reported settlement in the history of Delaware corporate litigation. G&E filed a class and derivative action in the Delaware Court of Chancery, alleging that Digex, Inc.'s directors and majority stockholder (Intermedia, Inc.) breached their fiduciary duties in connection with WorldCom's proposed \$6 billion acquisition of Intermedia. Among other issues, WorldCom was charged with attempting to usurp a corporate opportunity that belonged to Digex and improperly waiving on Digex's behalf the protections of Delaware's business combination statute. TCW Technology Limited Partnership ("TCW") was appointed lead plaintiff, and G&E was appointed lead counsel, in connection with their motion to preliminarily enjoin the merger. Following G&E's argument on the motion on November 29, 2000, the Court issued an opinion declining to enjoin the transaction but acknowledging plaintiffs' likelihood of success on the merits. In re Digex, Inc. Shareholders Litigation, Del. Ch., C.A. No. 18336, 2000 WL 1847679 (Dec. 13, 2000).

(2) Willamette

In January 2002, at the request of Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc. and Franklin Mutual Advisors, G&E filed a shareholder derivative action in Oregon state court claiming that the board of Willamette Industries, Inc. breached its fiduciary duties by attempting to cause Willamette to acquire the asbestos-ridden building products division of Georgia-Pacific Company as part of a scorched-earth effort to defeat a hostile takeover of Willamette by its chief competitor, Weyerhaeuser Company. G&E obtained an expedited hearing on its motion for a preliminary injunction and obtained an agreement from Willamette at the hearing not to consummate any deal with Georgia-Pacific without providing prior notice to G&E. Almost immediately thereafter, and after years of fighting against Weyerhaeuser's take-over attempts, the Willamette board relented and agreed to sell the company to Weyerhaeuser. Wyser-Pratte Management Co., Inc. & Franklin Mutual Advisors v. Swindells, et al., No. 0201-0085 (Ore.Cir.Ct.).

(3) Medco Research

In January 2000, G&E filed a shareholder derivative action on State of Wisconsin Investment Board's ("SWIB") behalf against the directors of Medco Research, Inc. in Delaware Chancery Court. The suit alleged breach of fiduciary duty in connection with the directors' approval of a proposed merger between Medco and King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. G&E was successful in obtaining a preliminary injunction requiring Medco to make supplemental and corrective disclosures. Because of G&E's efforts, the consideration to Medco's stockholders increased by \$4.08 per share, or \$48,061,755 on a class-wide basis. SWIB v Bartlett, et al., Del. Ch., C.A. No. 17727, 2000 WL 193115 (Feb. 9, 2000).

(4) **Occidental Petroleum**

G&E represented Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL") and served as co-counsel in a shareholders' derivative suit against the directors of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, challenging as corporate waste the company's excessive compensation arrangements with its top executives. Filed in a California state court, the case settled when the company agreed to adopt CalPERS's model principles of corporate governance and undertook to reconstitute its key committees so as to meet the tests of independence under those principles. TRSL v. Irani et al., Cal. Super., L.A.Co. [Calif.], C.A. No. BC1850009.

(5) **Staples, Inc.**

On behalf of Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL"), G&E challenged Staples, Inc.'s proposed "recapitalization" plan to unwind a tracking stock, Staples.com, which it created in 1998. G&E obtained a preliminary injunction against the deal and its terms were ultimately altered resulting in a \$15-\$20 million gain for shareholders. Additional disclosures were also required so that shareholders voted on the challenged transaction based on a new proxy statement with substantial additional disclosures. In re Staples, Inc. Shareholders Litigation, Del.Ch., C.A. No. 18784, 2001 WL 640377 (June 5, 2001).

(6) **SFX/Clear Channel Merger**

G&E filed a class action on behalf of Franklin Advisers, Inc. and other stockholders of SFX, challenging the merger between SFX and Clear Channel (the "Merger"). While the SFX charter required that in any acquisition of SFX all classes of common stockholders be treated equally, the Merger, as planned, provided for approximately \$68 million more in consideration to the two Class B stockholders (who happened to be the senior executives of SFX) than to the public stockholders. The Merger was structured so that stockholders who voted for the Merger also had to vote to amend the Charter to remove the non-discrimination provisions as a condition to the Merger. G&E negotiated a settlement whereby \$34.5 million more was paid to the public stockholders upon closing of the Merger. This was more than half the damages alleged in the Complaint. Franklin Advisers, Inc., et al. v. Sillerman, et al., Del. Ch., C.A. No. 17878, amended complaint filed April 24, 2000.

(7) Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon

G&E filed a derivative lawsuit on behalf of CalPERS against Lone Star's former CEO, Jamie Coulter, and six other Lone Star directors. The suit alleges that the defendants violated their fiduciary duties in connection with their approval of the company's acquisition of CEI, one of Lone Star's service providers, from Coulter, as well as their approvals of certain employment and compensation arrangements and option repricing programs. Before filing the derivative suit, G&E had assisted in CalPERS in filing a demand for books and records pursuant to Section 220 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. The company's response to that demand revealed the absence of any documentation that the board ever scrutinized transactions between Lone Star and CEI, that the board negotiated the purchase price for CEI, or that the board analyzed or discussed the repricing programs. In August 2005, the Court approved a settlement negotiated by G&E whereby Lone Star agreed to a re-pricing of options granted to certain of its officers and directors, payments from certain of the officers and directors related to option grants, and a \$3 million payment from Lone Star's director and officer insurance policy. Lone Star further agreed that it had adopted previously publicly announced corporate governance reforms, and that the commencement of the lawsuit was one of the significant factors considered in the adoption of the reforms. California Public Employees' Retirement System v. Coulter, et al., Del. Ch., C.A. No. 19191, complaint filed October 16, 2001.

(8) Siebel

The issue of excessive executive compensation has been of significant concern for investors, yet their concerns have remained largely unaddressed due to the wide discretion afforded corporate boards in establishing management's compensation. In Siebel Systems, G&E effected a sea change in the compensation policies of Siebel Systems, Inc., a leading Silicon Valley-based software developer long considered to be an egregious example of executive compensation run amok, and caused Thomas Siebel, the company's founder and CEO, to cancel 26 million options with a potential value of \$54 million. Since the company's founding in 1996, Siebel Systems, Inc. paid Mr. Siebel nearly \$1 billion in compensation, largely in the form of lavish stock options that violated the shareholder-approved stock option plan. In addition, the company paid its directors millions of dollars for their service on the board, also in the form of stock options, at levels exponentially higher than that paid to directors on the boards of similar companies. G&E, on behalf of Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL"), commenced a derivative action challenging the company's compensation practices in September of 2002 even though a prior, similar lawsuit had been dismissed. Following a hard-fought and acrimonious litigation, G&E successfully negotiated a settlement that, in addition to the options cancellation, included numerous corporate governance reforms. The company agreed to, inter alia, restructure its compensation committee, disclose more information regarding its compensation policies and decisions, cause its outside auditor to audit its option plans as part of the company's annual audit, and limit the compensation that can be paid to directors. The Siebel Systems settlement generated considerable favorable press in the industry, as investors and compensation

experts anticipated that the reforms adopted by Siebel Systems could affect how other companies deal with compensation issues as well. Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana v. Thomas M. Siebel, et al., C. A. No. 425796 (Cal. Super. 2003) ("Siebel Systems").

(9) **HealthSouth Corporation**

G&E filed a derivative and class action lawsuit on behalf of Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL") against HealthSouth Corporation, its auditors, certain individual defendants, and certain third parties seeking, inter alia, an order forcing the HealthSouth board of directors to hold an annual shareholder meeting for the purpose of electing directors, as no such meeting had been held for over thirteen months. Following a trial, G&E negotiated a settlement of part of its claims, pursuant to which five of the defendant directors who were alleged to have engaged in improper self-dealing with the company, breached their fiduciary duties and engaged in other improper acts agreed to resign and be replaced by directors selected by a committee comprised in part by TRSL and representatives of large institutional investors of HealthSouth. Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana v. Scrushy, No. 20529 (Del. Ch. March 2, 2004) Strine, V.C.

(10) **NYSE/Archipelago**

G&E served as co-lead counsel in a class action in New York state court, brought on behalf of a class of seatholders of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") challenging the proposed merger between the NYSE and Archipelago Holdings, LLC. The complaint alleged that the terms of the proposed merger were unfair to the NYSE seatholders, and that by approving the proposed merger, the NYSE board of directors violated their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and candor, because the transaction was the result of a process that was tainted by conflicts of interest and the directors failed adequately to inform themselves of the relevant facts. Defendants moved to dismiss, arguing that the claims were derivative claims and also that the action was barred by the business judgment rule. The court denied the motion to dismiss. After expedited discovery, including over 30 depositions in a five week period, a preliminary injunction evidentiary hearing was held, in which plaintiffs sought to postpone the vote on the merger until a new, current fairness opinion was obtained from an independent financial advisor. On the second day of the hearing, the defendants agreed to the relief being sought, namely that they would obtain a new, current fairness opinion from an independent financial advisor. In re New York Stock Exchange/Archipelago Merger Litig., No. 601646/05 (Sup. Ct. N.Y. Co.),

Exhibit D

SHAREHOLDER AND SECURITIES FRAUD RESUME

2008



MotleyRice LLC[®]



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FIRM OVERVIEW

Founded on April 28, 2003, by Ronald Motley, Joseph Rice and nearly 50 other lawyers, Motley Rice LLC is one of the nation's largest plaintiffs' law firms. Our attorneys, assisted by over 300 support personnel, are litigators with extensive courtroom experience and an in-depth understanding of the law.

The firm's lawyers are internationally recognized for their pioneering work representing asbestos victims, States' Attorneys General in their landmark litigation against Big Tobacco, the 9/11 families and survivors in their ground breaking lawsuit against terrorist financiers, and hundreds of thousands of other entities, investors, and citizens harmed by the wrongdoing of others.

Motley Rice lawyers, with more than several hundred years of collective trial experience across the United States, initially gained widespread national recognition for conducting some of the first successful representations of injured persons against the asbestos industry. In the last decade, Motley Rice lawyers were selected by 26 States' Attorneys General to represent them against the tobacco industry in recovering medical costs associated with smoking under novel legal and equitable theories that Motley Rice lawyers spearheaded — resulting in a \$246 billion settlement agreement, the largest financial resolution of civil litigation in the history of the U.S. jurisprudence.

The firm also represents individuals and institutions including large institutional investors in complex litigation involving civil racketeering (RICO), securities fraud, shareholder litigation, insurance fraud, tire and vehicle defects, defective drugs, class actions, toxic torts, workplace exposures, nursing home negligence, and representation related to the September 11, 2001, acts of terrorism.

The firm has offices in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina; Providence, Rhode Island; and Hartford, Connecticut. Motley Rice lawyers have dealt with clients and cases throughout the world, including in Latin America, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean.

MULTIPLE PARTY LITIGATION

The lawyers of Motley Rice LLC have substantial experience in multiple party litigation, including the class and consolidated actions listed below.

SECURITIES LITIGATION

Motley Rice has been appointed as lead counsel or co-lead counsel in the following securities cases:

In Re: Dell Inc., Sec. Litig., United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Civil Action No. A-06-CA726-SS.

National Home Co. Sec. Litig., Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, CA No. 2683-VCL.

In Re: Lear Corp Sec. Litig., Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, CA No. 2728-N.

Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, et al., derivatively on behalf of nominal defendant Baker Hughes Incorporated v. Chad C. Deaton; et al. v. Baker Hughes Incorporated, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Civil Action No. 4:07-cv-01517.

Manville Personal Injury Trust, derivatively on behalf of Massey Energy Company v. Don L. Blankenship, et. al. v. Massey Energy Company, Circuit Court of Kanawah County, West Virginia, Civil Action No. 07-C-1333.

Shultze Asset Management, LLC v. Washington Group International, Inc., et al., Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, CA No. 3261-VCN.

In Re: Bioenvision, Inc. Shareholders Litigation, Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, Consolidated C. A. No. 3008-VCP.

In Re: Molson Coors Brewing Company Sec. Litig., United States District Court District of Delaware, CA No. 1:05-294-KAJ.

In Re: PixelPlus Co. Ltd., Sec. Litig., United States District Court Southern District of New York, CA No. 06-CV-3141.



In Re: Witness Systems Sec. Litig., United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, No. 1:06-cv-1894.

In Re: WAMU Sec. Litig., United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Civil Action No. 2:04-CV-01599-JCC.

In Re: NPS Pharmaceuticals Inc. Sec. Litig., United States District Court District of Utah Central Division, Civil Action No. 2:06-CV-00570-PGC-PMW.

In Re: Select Medical Sec. Litig., United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Baker v. MBNA, United States District Court, District of Delaware.

Motley Rice lawyers have served in key roles in the prosecution of the following securities litigation:

In Re: Par Pharmaceuticals Sec. Litig., lead plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

In Re: Clear Channel Communications, Inc. Shareholders Litigation, 408th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas, Civil Cause No. 2006-CI-17492.

OTHER LITIGATION

Lead counsel in *Burnett v. Al Baraka Investment & Development Corp.*, No. 02-1616 (D.D.C.), consolidated actions against terrorist financing organizations in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, representing over 6,500 families with victims of the 9/11 attacks.

Plaintiffs' steering and coordinating counsel, *Linscomb v. Pittsburgh Corning Corp.*, No. 1:90cv05000 (E.D. Tex.), a national class action on behalf of asbestos victims nationwide in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division.

Executive committee member in *In re: Asbestos School Litigation*, No. 94-1494 (E.D. Pa.), a national school asbestos class action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Lead plaintiffs' counsel in *Central Wesleyan College v. W.R. Grace & Co.*, No. 2:87-1860-8 (D.S.C.), a national asbestos property damage class action in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Charleston Division.

Lead plaintiffs' counsel in *In re: Raymark Asbestos Exposure Cases*, No. 87-1016-K (D. Kan.), a national asbestos personal injury class action filed in United States District Court of Kansas, Wichita Division, in which 19,684 claims were resolved.

Counsel for class representative in *Raytech Corp. v. White*, No. 89-05129 (D. Conn.), an asbestos bankruptcy related class action in the United States District Court of Connecticut.

Co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in *Cimino v. Pittsburgh Corning Corp.*, No. 1:85-CV-00676 (E.D. Tex.), an asbestos personal injury class action on behalf of 2,300 plaintiffs in the United States District Court for the District of Texas, Beaumont Division.

Co-lead plaintiffs' counsel in *Chatham v. AC&S, et al.*, a consolidated asbestos personal injury action involving 300 plaintiffs in the Circuit Court of Harris County, Texas.

Co-lead plaintiffs' counsel in *Abrams v. GAF Corp.*, No. 88-5422(1) (Jackson Cty., Miss.), a consolidated asbestos personal action involving more than 6,000 plaintiffs.

Co-liaison plaintiffs' counsel in 3,000 asbestos personal injury cases in the Third Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Madison County, Illinois.

Co-lead counsel in a consolidated asbestos personal injury action involving 540 plaintiffs pending in the Superior Court of Alameda County, California.

Co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in *In re: Asbestos Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 875 (E.D. Pa.).

Numerous consolidated asbestos trials including 87 consolidated cases in Danville, Illinois; 300 consolidated cases in the United States District Court, Western District of New York, Rochester, New York; 42 consolidated cases in

State Court in Mississippi; and 315 consolidated cases in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Plaintiffs' steering committee and plaintiffs' liaison counsel in *In re: Showa Denko K.K. L-Tryptophan Products Liability Litigation (No. II)*, MDL 865 (D.S.C.).

Member Interim Plaintiffs' steering committee and Multiple Plaintiffs' Counsel in *In re: San Juan DuPont Plaza Hotel Fire Litigation*, MDL 721 (D.P.R.).

Plaintiffs' lead counsel in *In re: Kansas Asbestos Cases* in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, *In re: Madison County Illinois Asbestos Litigation*, and *In re: Wayne County Michigan Asbestos Cases*.

Class counsel in *Whitfield v. Sangamo Weston*, No. 6:84-3184 (D.S.C.), a PCB personal injury and property damage class action settled while pending before the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Greenville Division.

Lead counsel in *Bates v Tenco Services Inc.*, 132 F.R.D. 160 (D.S.C. 1990), a jet fuel pollution case involving the consolidated property damage and personal injury claims of multiple plaintiffs in the Gold Cup Springs subdivision, in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Charleston Division.

Member by appointment of a three (3) person steering committee on the Food Lion Multidistrict Litigation Panel.

Plaintiffs' lead counsel in a case involving ten (10) persons injured in a crane disaster in Florence County, South Carolina.

Plaintiffs' steering committee and plaintiffs' liaison counsel in *In re: Policy Management Systems Corp.*, No. 3:93-0807-17 (D.S.C. 1993), a securities case filed in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Columbia Division.

CIVIL LITIGATION

Motley Rice lawyers and their extensive support staff have experience in a wide variety of civil litigation. The firm's lawyers routinely litigate complex cases involving multiple parties in state and federal jurisdictions throughout the United States, either as sole counsel for the plaintiffs or in association with local counsel and other firms.

Additionally, the firm's lawyers have distinguished themselves in the use of alternative dispute resolution, such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration, making it possible to avoid protracted litigation in some cases. Motley Rice LLC employs state-of-the-art technology by using video conferencing, direct access to the Internet for lawyers and support staff, extranet access to institutional clients, and a computer-based document management system that enables the firm to process and enter into the database thousands of medical articles, liability documents and all other information and documents utilized in litigation proceedings.

SPECIALIZED BANKRUPTCIES

Motley Rice lawyers serve on several committees in national bankruptcies including:

Class Counsel in *In re: Trebol Motors Corporation and In re: Trebol Motors Distributors Corp.*, actively defending a \$143,000,000 class action judgment claim on behalf of a class of defrauded purchasers of Volvo automobiles.

Select counsel to the asbestos Claimants' Committee in the Johns-Manville bankruptcy pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Claimants' Committee in *In re: A.H. Robins*, a Chapter 11 Reorganization involving Dalkon Shield victims nationwide and H.K. Porter, National Gypsum, Raytech, Rock Wool and M.H. Detrick asbestos related bankruptcies.



ACCOLADES

Motley Rice lawyers have received many accolades from the courts, as well as in the press. Some of these include:

Roberts v. AP Green Industries, Inc., No. 49D02-9601-MI-0001-687 (Marion Cty., Ind.) — The judge stated, “That was some of the best final arguments I think I’ve ever heard. That was a treat. Congratulations to you all. I expected the best, and you delivered the best, and I appreciate it.”

Marsden v. Select Med. Corp., No. 04-4020 (E.D. Pa. Order entered Oct. 5, 2006) — “Motley Rice LLC possess[es] the requisite knowledge and skill in securities litigation to ably prosecute this matter on behalf of the class.”

In re NPS Pharm., Inc. Sec. Litig., No. 2:06-CV-00570 (D. Utah Order entered Nov. 17, 2006) — “As demonstrated by their submissions to the court, [Motley Rice has] expertise and experience in the prosecution of shareholder and securities class actions and, as a result, [is] adequate to represent the interests of the class.”

Motley Rice was named to “The Plaintiff’s Hot List” by *The National Law Journal* in October 2006.

“[Ron Motley is] one of the most influential lawyers in America.” — *The National Law Journal*

“[Joe Rice is] one of the five most respected (and feared) plaintiffs’ attorneys.” — *Corporate Legal Times*

Lawyers USA recognized member Jack McConnell as a 2006 Lawyer of the Year, citing the Rhode Island lead case.

Motley Rice member Fidelma Fitzpatrick was named Lawyer of the Year by *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

THE FIRM'S MEMBERS

RONALD MOTLEY

Ron Motley is internationally recognized as one of America's most dynamic, accomplished and skilled trial lawyers. Over a career spanning more than three decades, his persuasiveness before a jury and his ability to break new legal and evidentiary ground has brought to justice two once-invincible giant industries whose malfeasance took the lives of millions of Americans — asbestos and tobacco.

Today, Motley is once again advancing cutting-edge litigation as lead counsel for more than 6,500 family members and survivors of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks seeking justice against al Qaeda's financiers.

In addition, he currently leads Motley Rice's litigation efforts against several human tissue processing firms in New York funeral home on behalf of the victims of an alleged body harvesting scheme. The firm is currently handling over 500 cases. Motley also serves as co-lead counsel on the tainted tissue MDL.

Motley has won widespread recognition for his legal skills. The American Association for Justice honored Motley in 2007 with the David S. Shrager President's Award for his outstanding contributions to the safety and protection of American consumers and the civil justice system. In 1998, he was named Harry M. Philo Trial Lawyer of the Year by the 50,000-member Association of Trial Lawyers of America and received the President's Award of the National Association of Attorneys General. *Business Week* magazine characterized Motley's courtroom skills as "dazzling." *American Lawyer* dubbed him "The man who took on Manville," and *The National Law Journal* has ranked him, "One of the most influential lawyers in America."

His combination of legal and trial skills, personal charisma and nose-to-the-grindstone hard work has enabled Motley, a 1971 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, to build Motley Rice LLC into one of the world's largest plaintiffs' law firms concentrating in highly complex litigation. He is licensed in South Carolina.

JOSEPH RICE

Motley Rice LLC co-founding member Joe Rice is internationally renowned as a skillful, innovative, tough and masterful negotiator of landmark settlements of highly complex litigation. Rice is well known for his central role in working with asbestos victims as related to the Federal Employers Liability Act and in crafting the historic settlement with the tobacco industry. In the Big Tobacco litigation, Rice served as lead counsel for the States Attorneys General, negotiating the breakthrough settlement in which the tobacco industry agreed to reimburse states for smoking-related health costs, resulting in the largest civil settlement in history.

Rice continues to work as an integral negotiator for a multitude of the firm's practice areas, including occupational disease and toxic torts, aviation and other transportation disasters, securities and consumer fraud, and 9/11 and anti-terrorism. Most recently, he successfully executed strategic settlement talks on behalf of families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks in aviation liability and damages cases against multiple defendants.

Named one of the nation's "Five Most Respected Plaintiff Attorneys" in a poll of defense counsel and legal scholars conducted by *Corporate Legal Times*, Rice was cited time after time as one of the toughest, sharpest and hardest-working litigators they have ever faced. As the article notes, "For all his talents as a shrewd negotiator . . . Rice has earned most of his respect from playing fair and remaining humble." In 2006, Rice was described by *The American Lawyer* as "one of the shrewdest business men practicing law." He combines a meticulous and exhaustive capacity for numbers-crunching with a creative mind that thinks outside the box in identifying solutions to difficult problems that win justice for clients.

In 1998, Rice received the President's Award of the National Association of Attorneys General. In 1999 and 2000, Rice served on the faculty at Duke University School of Law as a Senior Lecturing Fellow. Rice earned Bachelor of Science and J.D. degrees from the University of South Carolina and has also taught classes at the USC and Duke Law Schools on the art of negotiating. He is licensed in South Carolina.

FRED BAKER

Fred Baker divides his time between the Motley Rice Environmental and Securities and Consumer Fraud practice groups. Baker earned a J.D. and LL.M from Duke University School



of Law in 1993. He was admitted to both the South Carolina Bar and New York Bar in 1994, at which time he began working with Motley Rice attorneys.

KEVIN DEAN

For over 15 years, Kevin Dean has litigated in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, professional malpractice, products liability, lender liability and commercial/consumer fraud. Dean joined Motley Rice LLC as an associate in 2004 to focus on the firm's Transportation, Medical and Catastrophic Injury practice groups. He was quickly appointed vehicle defect subgroup leader. In late 2005, Dean was asked to serve as team leader on the firm's newest medical malpractice litigation. The litigation, led by Ron Motley, involves the prosecution of cases involving body snatching and recipients of potentially diseased human tissue. Dean was named a Member of Motley Rice LLC in 2006.

Prior to joining Motley Rice, Dean was a partner with the Law Offices of J. Edward Bell III, LLC, in Georgetown, South Carolina. Before moving to South Carolina in 2001, he was a member of the William S. Stone, P.C. law firm in Blakely, Georgia, and began his career as an associate with The Bennett Law Firm of Valdosta, Georgia. Dean also served as a County Commissioner on the Early County Georgia Board of Commissioners.

Dean earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Valdosta State University. He received a J.D. degree in 1991 from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, where he was selected to serve on one the school's nationally published law reviews, the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*. Dean co-authored an article titled "Dangerous Doors and Loose Latches," appearing in the November 2004 issue of *Trial Magazine* of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He is licensed to practice in Georgia and South Carolina.

MICHAEL ELSNER

In his role with groundbreaking anti-terrorism litigation with Motley Rice LLC, Mike Elsner leads the investigatory team that is currently scouring the globe gathering liability evidence for 9/11 families' civil action against al Qaeda's financiers and 9/11 aviation litigation. His creativity and aggressive approach to gathering evidence and pursuing leads are qualities that have enabled him to effectively bring about social change

through litigation. His use of the U.S. civil justice system to better protect Americans from the threat of terrorism is an approach that has been invaluable to the more than 6,500 9/11 families and survivors Motley Rice represents.

To date, Elsner and the 9/11 and Anti-Terrorism practice group have acquired more than one million pages of documents in 13 languages about the activities of al Qaeda and the role that its alleged financiers played in providing material support for terrorism.

After graduating from John Carroll University and receiving a law degree from the University of Memphis in 1997, Elsner began work for the Manville Personal Injury Trust. He then teamed with Ron Motley and other lawyers on litigation against Big Tobacco. In 2001, Elsner joined the firm of Weitz & Luxenberg, where he worked on asbestos and toxic tort litigation. Through these positions, Elsner gained experience in complex civil litigation in the areas of toxic tort, aviation, security, personal injury, bankruptcy, medical malpractice and whistleblower protections. He officially joined Motley Rice lawyers to work on the 9/11 litigation in 2002 and, in 2006, he became a Motley Rice Member. Elsner has appeared on CNN, ABC, NBC, Fox, MSNBC, National Public Radio, the BBC and the Canadian Broadcasting Company to discuss terrorism litigation and he frequently lectures on the subject. Elsner is licensed to practice in New York, South Carolina and Virginia.

FIDELMA FITZPATRICK

Fidelma Fitzpatrick is helping to break new legal ground by seeking to hold the lead pigment industry accountable for the childhood lead poisoning crisis on behalf of various states, cities, counties and individuals. In February 2006, she was trial counsel in the landmark litigation against the lead pigment industry on behalf of the state of Rhode Island, which ended in an unprecedented verdict for the State.

Fitzpatrick also represents hundreds of lead poisoned children in Wisconsin in legal battles against the lead pigment industry. As a result, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court became the first to recognize the rights of poisoned children to sue the lead pigment manufacturers. She is also working intensively on similar litigation filed by the City of New York, the City and County of San Francisco and several New Jersey municipalities. In 2005, she served as co-counsel in a case resulting

in a New Jersey Appellate Court ruling allowing 26 cities and counties to prosecute claims against the lead pigment industry.

Fitzpatrick graduated from Canisius College and received a law degree from the American University in 1994. In 1997, she joined Motley Rice lawyers in the Providence, R.I., office, working first on the Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island lawsuits against Big Tobacco. Since 1999, she has focused on lead paint and other environmental litigation. Fitzpatrick became a Motley Rice LLC Member in 2006. She is licensed to practice in Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C. Fitzpatrick was named a Lawyer of the Year for 2006 by *Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly*.

JODI FLOWERS

Jodi Flowers is a Motley Rice LLC Member committed to the notion that trial lawyers can positively effectuate public justice and social change. Because of her reputation for developing, researching and managing complex litigation and class actions, Flowers was the first associate hired for Ron Motley's team against Big Tobacco. She also prepared the case on child targeting by the tobacco industry that led to the restrictions on cartoon ads and the retiring of Joe Camel, as well as and developed expert and whistleblower testimony, synthesizing millions of pages of documents and preparing the tobacco cases for trial.

Flowers is currently the practice group leader for Motley Rice's 9/11 practice group, representing more than 6,500 family members and survivors in a pioneering civil action against al Qaeda's funders designed to bankrupt terrorism. She also performs pro bono work on a wide variety of cases and heads Motley Rice's charitable contribution committee.

Flowers earned a Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* from the College of Charleston in 1989, a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1993. She began practicing with Motley Rice lawyers upon graduation and is a Motley Rice LLC Member.

JOHN HERRICK

John Herrick was persuaded to work with Ron Motley, Joe Rice and many other current colleagues some 16 years ago, encouraged and motivated by their high standards. He now approaches his work with the same ambition as a leader of the asbestos team at Motley Rice LLC. Herrick has worked for clients across the

country in Alabama, Illinois, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and others. He currently serves on the Claimants Committee of the C.E. Thurston, Inc., Bankruptcy.

Herrick received a Bachelor of Arts in 1983 and graduated with a J.D. in 1988 from the University of South Carolina. The combination of his innate affection for arguing and his desire to lend a voice to people who might otherwise not be heard drew him to the law and, more specifically, to the plaintiffs' bar. He became a Motley Rice Member in 2003.

ANNE KEARSE

With a background in consumer affairs and asbestos litigation, Anne Kears approaches every case with two objectives in mind: to be passionate about the clients she represents and to provide top-notch legal counsel. She has represented victims of asbestos exposure in numerous jurisdictions in both individual and mass tort settings. In addition to her asbestos-related work, Kears represents individuals and families suffering from injuries resulting from defective products and catastrophic accidents.

Beginning her career as a trial paralegal and investigator for Motley Rice lawyers in 1984, she quickly learned all the ins and outs of discovery while working on asbestos cases for individual plaintiffs and school districts. Kears was later encouraged to obtain a law degree so that she could take her commitment and knowledge about plaintiffs' needs and the culpability of defendants to a new level.

In 1998, Kears graduated *cum laude* from the University of South Carolina School of Law and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar. She became a Member of Motley Rice LLC in 2003 and now leads the asbestos liability team and Catastrophic Injury practice group. She has a focus on toxic torts, mass tort litigation, premises liability and general civil litigation. Kears has written and been published on major legal issues, including forum non conveniens and defective products abroad, corporate conduct, medico legal aspects of asbestos litigation and mass tort litigation.

ROBERT MCCONNELL

Bob McConnell joined Motley Rice as a Member in 2003 and has most recently devoted his attention to childhood lead poisoning cases, representing both injured children in lawsuits against negligent property owners and government agencies



in public nuisance lawsuits against the lead pigment industry. He has presented to the Rhode Island Bar Association, the Northeast Conference of Attorneys General and various community groups throughout Rhode Island on lead poisoning litigation.

McConnell began his career representing individual asbestos victims and assisting in large consolidated asbestos trials in Maryland, Mississippi and West Virginia. After graduating from Brown University in 1979 and teaching for several years, McConnell earned his law degree in 1987 from Suffolk University.

McConnell then clerked for one year for Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Donald F. Shea before joining Motley Rice. He is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Hoping to better the state of Rhode Island, McConnell serves on the board of Help Lead Safe Center, whose purpose is to prevent childhood lead poisoning and provide services for children already affected.

JOHN MCCONNELL, JR.

Throughout his career, attorney Jack McConnell has fought for justice, taking on Big Tobacco, the asbestos industry, and now, the manufacturers of lead paint, on behalf of many individuals, groups of people, municipalities, counties and states.

McConnell's legal and trial achievements have earned him a host of honors. In 2006, *Lawyers USA* recognized McConnell as a Lawyer of the Year, citing the Rhode Island lead case. He is the recipient of the National Association of Attorneys General's President's Award, the Childhood Lead Action Project's Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award, the Rhode Island Bar Association's Dorothy Lohman Award, CWRU's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award and the Rhode Island ARC's Silver Bullet Award. He is an Advocate in The National College of Advocacy.

A 1980 Brown University graduate, McConnell earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1983. After clerking for the R.I. Supreme Court, he practiced law at the firm of Mandell, Goodman, Famiglietti & Schwartz for two years before beginning work with Motley Rice lawyers in 1986. He became a Motley Rice LLC Member in 2003, serves as one of the six members of the firm's executive committee and manages the firm's Rhode Island office. McConnell

is active in his community as well as the state and national Democratic Party. He is licensed to practice in Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Washington, D.C.

DONALD MIGLIORI

Donald A. Migliori's journey to the highest levels of the plaintiffs' bar - winning multi-million dollar asbestos suits, litigating on behalf of the 9/11 families and victims of aviation disasters and helping the States Attorneys General stop Big Tobacco - has earned him a reputation as a trial lawyer whose calm, deliberative style enables him to connect with juries and successfully negotiate with adversaries even under the most contentious of circumstances.

Migliori is a frequent speaker on legal issues relating to terrorist financing, aviation security, class-action litigation, premises liability in asbestos litigation and tobacco company liability. He has also appeared on Court TV, Fox News, and The CBS Early Show and is an adjunct professor at Roger William School of Law, teaching mass torts.

After graduating from Brown University, Migliori earned a master's degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Citizenry and a J.D. from Syracuse's College of Law. In 1997, he began his work with Motley Rice attorneys. Since becoming a member of Motley Rice LLC in 2003, Migliori heads the firm's aviation team along with member Mary Schiavo and tries occupational health, environmental, medical malpractice and other cases before juries.

WILLIAM NARWOLD

Bill Narwold directs the Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group, building further on the firm's role in consumer fraud, defective products, whistleblower, antitrust and securities litigation matters throughout the United States.

Narwold joined Motley Rice LLC as a senior Member in January 2004 after spending 25 years at Cummings & Lockwood in Hartford, Connecticut, including a decade as managing partner. He was drawn to the firm by its energy, excitement and creativity and the opportunity to work on litigation that affects people's lives, policy and social change. Narwold plays an active management role as a member of Motley Rice's Executive Committee, and he heads the firm's appellate practice group. In addition to leading the firm's Securities and Consumer Fraud litigation matters, Narwold frequently acts as an

arbitrator and mediator, both through the American Arbitration Association and privately.

A 1974 graduate of Colby College, Narwold earned a law degree *cum laude* from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1979, where he was Managing Editor of the *Connecticut Law Review*. He is licensed to practice in Connecticut and South Carolina.

ANN RITTER

Possessing over two decades of courtroom experience in complex class action litigation involving matters as varied as products liability, toxic tort, shareholders' rights and consumer protection, Ann Ritter is a skilled and successful trial lawyer. Throughout her career, has worked tirelessly to confront corporate wrongdoers and hold them accountable for negligence and wrongdoing.

A straight shooter, Ritter is an unyielding advocate for her clients, having combined her inherent ability to lead complex cases with a take-charge attitude to help trial teams and courts across the country. Her strong instinct for finding corporate smoking gun evidence puts her on the front lines of hard-fought litigation.

Ritter is a founding attorney of Motley Rice LLC and serves on the Firm's Executive Committee. Additionally she serves in a managing role in Motley Rice's occupational disease, transportation and securities litigation groups.

Currently she serves as Lead Counsel in *In re Dell Inc., Sec. Litig.*, (United States District Court for the Western District of Texas); Co-Lead Counsel in *In re Lear Corp. Shareholders Litig.*, (Del. Ch.), Co-Lead Counsel in *Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, et al.*, derivatively on behalf of nominal defendant *Baker Hughes Incorporated v. Chad C. Deaton; et al.* (United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas), and has played a key role in the National Home freeze out case (*National Home Co. Sec. Litig.*, (Del. Ch.)).

Ritter earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University. Ritter was employed in the commercial banking area and also worked in the banking regulatory field as a bank examiner with the State of Florida Office of the Comptroller. She then pursued a law degree from the University of Tennessee. Ritter is co-author of "Asbestos in Schools," published by

the National School Boards Association. She serves on the Executive Advisory Council of the International Pleural Mesothelioma Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School, the Advisory Committee for the Tobacco Deposition and Trial Testimony Archives (DATTA) Project.

MARY SCHIAVO

Throughout her career in law and public service, Mary Schiavo has held corporations, institutions and the government accountable for their obligation to protect the public welfare. She continues that mission at Motley Rice LLC as a member, leader of the aviation team and as a member of the firm's complex litigation team.

Schiavo has held numerous government appointments with the U.S. government. She is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and served as an assistant to the U.S. Attorney General. As a prosecutor on the Organized Crime and Racketeering Strike Force, she prosecuted high profile criminal cases involving securities, mail and wire fraud. Appointed to Assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor, she investigated union, election and financial irregularities. From 1990 to 1996, Schiavo served as the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Under her direction, Schiavo and her staff secured more than 1,000 criminal convictions and uncovered billions of dollars of fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayers' money at the U.S.D.O.T. Additionally, Schiavo instructed in trial tactics and prosecution of white collar investigations at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy and the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute.

Since leaving the Transportation Department, Schiavo has worked on complex litigation matters to obtain accountability from corporations and wrongdoers for breach of fiduciary duty. She has represented passenger and crew families in complex litigation involving major U.S. aviation disasters as well as private planes. At Motley Rice, she represents clients in major aviation-related litigation, including family members of the passengers and crew aboard the four planes hijacked on September 11, 2001.

Experienced in corporate regulation, Schiavo worked for 10 years on corporate audit committee issues, including helping direct a NYSE corporation through the implementation of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. Additionally, Schiavo served for



10 years on the Board of Directors of a NYSE-listed corporation and served on the Board of Directors for a Canadian-based corporation.

Schiavo is a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard University and earned a master's degree in public administration from The Ohio State University, where she was a University Fellow. Schiavo earned a J.D. from New York University and was a Root-Tilden Law Scholar. She is licensed to practice in Maryland, Missouri, Washington, D.C., and before the U.S. Supreme Court. She has also made appearances on behalf of clients in many other U.S. states and several foreign countries.

Schiavo has served as a legal consultant for NBC and ABC news and frequently appears on Fox, CNN, CBS, History and Discovery Channels and the BBC. She is a licensed pilot and has taught aviation and public administration as a professor at The Ohio State University.

FRED THOMPSON

Fred Thompson has over 25 years of trial experience in commercial, personal injury and toxic tort law. Armed with a sharp ability to organize facts into legal theories and arguments, Thompson approaches each case individually and always keeps clients' well-being and primary interests in mind.

Thompson has represented a cross-section of clients in securities litigation, including customers of public brokerage houses, classes of bondholders in defaulted bond issues and purchasers of securities — including limited partnership units, stocks and other forms of securities against the issuing entities, advisers, accountants, brokers, bankers, underwriters, syndicators and other associated professionals in federal, state and bankruptcy forums, as well as in alternative dispute such as arbitration. Thompson currently leads Motley Rice's medical practice group, managing all cases related to defective medical devices, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and harmful pharmaceutical drugs. He is a frequent speaker on medical litigation topics, and was recently appointed co-chairman of the American Association for Justice Kugel Mesh Litigation Group.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* from Yale University in 1973, Thompson served his country in the U.S. Navy. He then attended Duke University School of Law, where he earned his J.D. with distinction in 1979. Thompson

has tried cases in every forum in South Carolina, from the magistrate's court to the court of appeals. He is licensed to practice in South Carolina.

ADDITIONAL SECURITIES AND CONSUMER FRAUD LITIGATORS

WILLIAM APPLGATE

Originally a small business owner, William Applegate chose to bring his business management background to the firm in 2003.

In his legal career, Applegate has represented individuals and small businesses in civil disputes around the country in both state and federal courts. He currently focuses his efforts on securities and consumer fraud class actions and individual commercial torts, including securities fraud litigation and deal cases involving Dell, Witness Systems and MBNA. Additionally, Applegate possesses extensive knowledge in admiralty law, the Jones Act and environmental pollution law. He is experienced in cases involving the Federal Employer's Liability Act (FELA), assisting in the representation of Motley Rice's 9,000 plaintiffs from across the country who have been injured while working for different railroad companies.

Applegate earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in both English and Spanish from the College of Charleston. He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2002. He speaks Spanish fluently.

JAMES HUGHES, PH.D.

Jim Hughes began his career as a professor, teaching philosophy at the University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, Vassar College and the University of South Carolina. As one who enjoyed the trials of teaching, Hughes decided that joining the legal profession might inspire and further challenge him. He joined Motley Rice attorneys in 1993 and was named Senior Counsel in 2007.

Hughes primarily focuses on Motley Rice's securities and consumer fraud litigation efforts, writing pleadings and filings prior to lead plaintiff appointment, as well as during the litigation stage.

A Minnesota native, Hughes earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota followed by a Master of

Arts and Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1993. He has spoken at several national conferences on silica topics, such as “Emerging Issues in Silica Litigation,” “The Current State of Silica Litigation,” “Silica Litigation: The Killing Dust” and “Is Silica the Next Asbestos? The Plaintiff’s Perspective.” Hughes’s law review article, “Informing South Carolina Capital Juries About Parole,” was cited in 2000 by Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court in his dissenting opinion in *Ramdass v. Angelone*.

BADGE S. HUMPHRIES

Since early in his legal career, Badge Humphries has experienced complex litigation in courtroom environments—first, as law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Thad Heartfield and, then, as an associate working with the Motley Rice Occupational Disease and Toxic Tort practice group on asbestos litigation. In 2004, Humphries began devoting a large amount of time to consumer fraud. His responsibilities at Motley Rice have included handling large dockets of asbestos cases and managing complex securities class actions against officers and directors who have breached their fiduciary duties to shareholders. Through his work at the firm, Humphries has experience prosecuting every stage of the litigation process, from filing through appeal.

Humphries graduated *summa cum laude* from Tulane University in 1996 with a B.A. in Latin American Studies. After college, Humphries worked for a non-profit human-rights organization in Austin, Texas, before enrolling at The University of Texas School of Law, where he served as a member of the *Texas Law Review* and earned a J.D. with honors in May 2001. He is licensed to practice in South Carolina and Texas. He is also a member of the bars of two U.S. District Courts—the South Carolina District and Eastern District of Texas.

FREDERICK JEKEL

Fritz Jekel has been involved in litigation related to securities fraud, asbestos, groundwater contamination, RICO, personal injury and product liability throughout his career. Most recently, Jekel participated in the discovery in the Clear Channel shareholder litigation (*In Re: Clear Channel Communications, Inc. Shareholders Litigation*, 408th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas). He also tried lead poisoning personal injury cases in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina.

Jekel also handles toxic mold exposure cases, effectively dealing with the unique challenges of causation and liability. He represented students at Stratford High School in a civil rights class action lawsuit in which the students alleged that their constitutional rights were violated when police handcuffed and held them at gunpoint during a drug raid. In 1993, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, M.P.A. and J.D. from the University of South Carolina, Jekel was admitted to the South Carolina Bar and became associated with Motley Rice lawyers.

MARLON KIMPSON

A skilled communicator in the courtroom and at the negotiating table, Marlon Kimpson combines his knowledge of law and banking to work aggressively for Motley Rice clients.

Recently, Kimpson filed a case on behalf of seven professional football players against the National Football League and National Football League Players Association alleging that they acted negligently in their endorsement and recommendation of a financial advisory firm that is currently under federal indictment for allegedly embezzling \$185 million from a hedge-fund. He has also been actively involved in litigation with the firm’s occupational disease, aviation and catastrophic injury teams.

Kimpson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College. He worked in commercial banking for five years before receiving his law degree from the University of South Carolina and being admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1999. He is an active community participant, and currently is a member of the Carolina Youth Development Center Board of Directors and the University of South Carolina Board of Visitors. He served as Chairman of the South Carolina Election Commission from 2001-2003.

GREGG LEVIN

With nearly 20 years of legal experience, attorney Gregg Levin litigates in the area of corporate governance, misconduct and securities fraud.

Prior to joining Motley Rice in 2007, Levin was an associate at Grant & Eisenhofer in Wilmington, Delaware, where he focused on corporate litigation and shareholders’ rights. He represented institutional investors in securities fraud class actions and shareholder derivative actions in federal and state courts across the country, including the WorldCom, Telxon and Global Crossing cases.



Levin is the author of significant portions of the treatise *Shareholder Activism Handbook* (Aspen Publishers; November 2005). He has written and published multiple articles addressing securities fraud litigation. Levin is also the former Vice President and Corporate Counsel for a Delaware Valley based retail corporation, where he directed the corporation's legal affairs, led internal investigations and maintained corporate compliance in all internal and external policies, procedures and contracts.

Levin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Rochester in 1984 and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1987. He is licensed to practice in California and the District of Columbia.

JOSH LITTLEJOHN

Josh Littlejohn began his legal career at Motley Rice in 2002 as a paralegal working on asbestos and prescription drug litigation. He later enrolled in law school while continuing to work at Motley Rice and, in 2007, joined the firm as an attorney with the medical and securities fraud teams.

With five years of experience with active litigation at Motley Rice, Littlejohn has a strong background in discovery tactics, motion practice and liability document review. He played a role in prescription drug cases, dealing specifically with marketing practices and privilege log issues. Littlejohn has experience drafting complaints and assisting with securities cases including derivative suits and deal cases. He has also been actively involved with client relations and client intake.

Littlejohn earned a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 1999 and a J.D. from the Charleston School of Law in 2007.

INGRID MOLL

After working for two large defense firms, Ingrid Moll made a significant career move in 2004 when she chose to join Motley Rice LLC, attracted by its energy, creativity and role in tobacco and asbestos litigation.

Moll's areas of experience include unfair competition and trade practices, intellectual property, tax and appellate practice. She has partaken in the preparation, briefing and argument for dozens of appeals in various state and federal courts. Moll works primarily in Motley Rice's Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group.

After graduating from Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French, Moll earned a J.D. with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Connecticut Law Review*. Following her graduation from law school, Moll served as a law clerk to the Honorable David M. Borden, Connecticut Supreme Court.

Moll's experience includes serving on the litigation team of cases in unfair trade practices, intellectual property, constitutional law, tax and other areas in state and federal courts in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Minnesota and New York and playing an active role in appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First and Second Circuit and the state courts of Connecticut, Georgia and Maryland. Moll has also taught moot court class at the University of Connecticut School of Law as an adjunct professor.

LANCE OLIVER

With a background in complex and commercial litigation, Lance Oliver focuses on securities fraud and shareholder derivative cases as part of the Motley Rice Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group.

Prior to joining Motley Rice, Oliver was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of a national law firm. Oliver's experience includes complex litigation at both the trial and appellate levels, insurance coverage matters and The Freedom of Information Act.

Oliver received a B.A. from Samford University in 2001 and a J.D. from Duke University School of Law in 2004. After graduation, Oliver served as a law clerk to the Honorable James Hughes Hancock of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama. He is licensed to practice in Alabama and the District of Columbia as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

MEGHAN OLIVER

After three years as a business litigation and antitrust associate in Washington, D.C., Meghan Oliver joined Motley Rice in 2007. Oliver focuses on the firm's securities fraud litigation. Oliver has participated in federal antitrust litigation, including the trial of a multi-district litigation antitrust case, as well as general commercial litigation. Additionally, she has assisted in multiple corporate internal investigations.

Prior to attending law school, Oliver lobbied Congress on behalf of several public health organizations. Oliver received a B.A. in 2000 and a J.D. in 2004 from the University of Virginia. She is licensed to practice in the District of Columbia and Virginia.

VINCENT PARRETT

Vince Parrett earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree, *cum laude*, in Economics from Yale College, where he authored dual senior theses: "A Tract on the International Currency Swap Market" and "A History of the Securities & Exchange Commission. Sed quis custodiet ipsos Custodes?" He studied European Union Law and Economics in German, at the Goethe Institute in Mannheim, Germany. In 1998 Parrett graduated from New York University School of Law.

He began his legal career in Boston, Massachusetts, in the area of securities, representing clients involved in federal securities litigation and SEC investigations. He was involved in research, document analysis, drafting briefs and interviews with key witnesses involved in securities fraud litigation. Parrett has also served as a Naval Officer in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG).

From 2003 through the present, Parrett has represented victims of the September 11th attacks, first with a New York firm and thereafter with Motley Rice. He has represented clients in this multidistrict litigation against financial sponsors of al Qaeda, and against the airlines and security companies who allegedly failed to implement basic security measures and enabled the terrorists to launch the attacks.

Since joining Motley Rice, he has participated in corporate class action litigation representing the direct financial interests of shareholders against under-priced or coercive transactions and shareholders asserting claims against management and directors for violating their fiduciary duties in connection with corporate transactions, such as 'going-private' deals. He also engages in federal class action securities fraud litigation, representing investors injured because of wrongful conduct, including the dissemination of fraudulent statements to the investing public.

Parrett has co-authored several articles and presentations. He is admitted to practice law in California, Massachusetts, New York and South Carolina as well as several federal courts, in-

cluding the U.S. Supreme Court, the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

MARTHA RHODES

With a background in corporate, business and insurance litigation, attorney Martha Rhodes has represented companies both small and large in civil litigation. She has taken more than 200 depositions relating to construction litigation and insurance defense and has taken several cases to trial.

Prior to joining Motley Rice, Rhodes was an associate at Buist Moore Smythe McGee P.A. in Charleston, South Carolina. She completed a clerkship with Judge Jackson V. Gregory of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina and served as a Law Clerk for the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program, Inc., in the Charleston community.

Rhodes joined Motley Rice in 2007 as an associate in the Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group. She is a 1997 graduate of the University of the South, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. She earned her J.D. in 2001 from the University of South Carolina School of Law and served as an Associate Justice of the University of South Carolina Moot Court Bar. She is licensed to practice in South Carolina.

LEE ANNE WALTERS

Lee Walters joined Motley Rice as an associate in 2006. She works primarily with the firm's Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group. A South Carolina native, Walters earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Clemson University in 1994 and a Master's Degree in Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1995 before earning a J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

While earning her law degree, Walters clerked for a plaintiffs' firm, primarily in medical malpractice and products liability, as well as for the Children's Law Office. Walters is a member of the Order of the Wig and Robe and the recipient of CALI Awards in property and civil procedure. She is licensed to practice law in South Carolina.



SECURITIES AND CONSUMER FRAUD FORENSIC STAFF

DAVID ABEL

Director of Shareholder Services and Business Analysts David Abel identifies an organization's needs, developing innovative solutions with creative ideas and a passion for technology. He works with monitored clients and practice group attorneys to monitor clients' financial holdings.

Abel is responsible for communicating with institutional investors interested in Motley Rice's portfolio monitoring service, monitoring portfolios by correlating investment portfolio with current litigation, and analyzing institutional losses for potential/current actions impacting portfolios. He also oversees all client interaction as it relates to settlement recovery, document preparation and calculating recognizable loss.

Prior to joining Motley Rice in 2006, Abel gained valuable professional experiences as Vice President of Operations for a mid-size tour company, as Editor and General Manager for a political e-journal with over 40,000 subscribers and as Marketing Assistant at a full service marketing and public relations agency.

Abel earned a Master of Business Administration from The Citadel. He was a double major at Clemson University, earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in Speech and Communication and Spanish. He is currently attending the Charleston School of Law to earn a Juris Doctor degree.

ADAM FOULKE

Adam Foulke joined Motley Rice LLC in December 2006 as a Business Analyst in the Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group. Foulke has over 15 years of business experience including post-SOX experience in corporate governance consulting and market regulation compliance analysis.

Foulke was drawn to the securities fraud team at Motley Rice because of his passion for good corporate governance and his belief that in order for the United States capital markets to remain competitive, the market and its participants must act with integrity and individual firms must be accountable for the trust bestowed upon them by the investing public.

Before joining Motley Rice, Foulke served as a Principal in two maritime start-up businesses, a port services and transportation business and a technology venture seeking to market IED detection devices to domestic and international container terminal operators. He also served as a proxy analysis and corporate governance consultant for financial advisory firm, Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS). While working as an analyst at ISS, several of Foulke's articles on corporate governance issues were published in the firm's weekly publication circulated to pension fund investment advisors, money managers and other equities analysts.

Foulke later was a senior analyst in the Listing Qualifications Department at the Nasdaq Stock Market. Foulke earned a B.A. from Roanoke College and a Master of Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University.

YVONNE GODFREY

Yvonne Godfrey joined Motley Rice in 2004 as a Research Assistant of the firm's Central Research department, supporting the firm's practice groups and active litigation with research and reference services. She was quickly promoted to Supervisor of the department.

Godfrey currently works with the securities fraud team at Motley Rice, dedicated specifically to securities-related research and support. She earned a B.A. in English literature from Rhodes College in 2004.

ELLIE KIMMEL

Business Analyst Ellie Kimmel joined Motley Rice in 2000. Prior to her work with the securities fraud team, she was a founding member of the firm's Central Research Unit and also supervised the firm's file management. She now focuses on securities research and client portfolio analysis.

Kimmel has a diverse background that includes experience in education as well as the banking industry. She began her career in banking operations, where she served as an operations manager and business analyst in corporate banking support for 14 years. She then spent seven years teaching high school economics, Latin and history before joining Motley Rice.

Kimmel earned degrees in Latin, history and education from the University of South Florida.

STEFFEN MOERTIZ

As Director of European Investors Relations, Steffen works closely with Motley Rice's Securities and Consumer Fraud practice group to identify, research and communicate the status of securities fraud litigation to European clients. He is responsible for managing the Portfolio Monitoring Service offered by Motley Rice to European clients, monitoring their investment portfolios to determine losses and potential recoveries. Additionally, Moeritz manages the preparation and filing of settlement claims.

Moeritz earned a law degree from Martin Luther University in Germany with an emphasis in economics. After spending several years as a legal consultant and business manager in Germany, Moeritz began working with American securities law and European investors as the Foreign Outreach Manager at a New York-based securities firm. He is fluent in German and English. He joined Motley Rice in 2006.

SAM WANKEL

Sam serves Motley Rice as a Business Analyst with more than 17 years of experience in complex securities litigation support and consulting. He provides litigation support relating to the economic issues that arise in complex securities fraud litigation.

Wankel's litigation consulting work includes calculating damages in actions brought under federal and state securities laws. In addition, he provides financial and economic analysis of publicly traded securities, financial statements, historical price performance and "peer group" comparisons as well as research on various individual company and/or industry specific issues relating to publicly traded securities.

From 1994 through 1995, he researched and prepared statistical information presented to the United States Congress and the Senate Banking and Finance Committee with respect to public offerings, stock trading and securities class actions and the Private Securities Litigation and Reform Act (PSLRA).

Wankel earned a Bachelor of Arts from Colorado State University and has taken various post graduate courses in finance, accounting, statistics, and investment analysis and portfolio management.

SECURITIES NEWS COVERAGE

As featured in the San Diego Union-Tribune Online on August 27, 2007

Nigeria a legal trouble spot for oil service firms

By Anna Driver
REUTERS

HOUSTON – Operating in oil-rich Nigeria has always been a challenge for energy-service companies, but new bribery probes by U.S. authorities are raising legal and financial risks that may force them to leave the country.

GlobalSantaFe Corp, Transocean Inc and Pride International Inc have all said in regulatory filings that they received requests for information from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which is probing whether the oil service companies violated the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) by bribing customs officials in Nigeria.

The act outlaws bribes paid by U.S. companies or their agents to win business abroad. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is also probing a number of companies.

Booming oil prices in recent years have pushed up demand for offshore drilling rigs in West Africa, but lawyers say doing business there inevitably involves taking risks.

“In Nigeria, there are a lot of people who are demanding those services and they are basically going into the Wild West,” said Brad Richards of Houston law firm Haynes and Boone.” They are going into a market where the way of doing business is to pay bribes.”

Transparency International, a global nonprofit group that battles corruption, found in a 2006 poll that bribe paying is the norm in a number of African countries, including Nigeria.

Richards, who advises companies doing business in Nigeria, said the number of FCPA probes grew after the Sarbanes-Oxley governance reforms of 2002 which, among other things, require companies to report more detailed financial information.

“It’s going to be a growing problem for companies in that the DOJ and the SEC have it in their bulls-eye,” he said.

A Houston-based spokeswoman for the DOJ would not comment.

Other oil service companies facing scrutiny from U.S. authorities or conducting their own probes into possible FCPA violations include Tidewater Inc and Noble Corp. Global Industries Ltd announced in June an internal bribery probe of its West African operations. Nabors Industries Inc. said in a regulatory filing the DOJ was probing one of its customs vendors.

And Swiss logistics and transport group Panalpina said in July it had started an inquiry because U.S. authorities requested documents related to a bribery probe.

As featured in the San Diego Union-Tribune Online on August 27, 2007 (continued)

The companies have said they are cooperating with the government. But several warned that if they do not get permits to operate in Nigeria, they will have to cancel contracts.

Noble said it had not been able to obtain or renew permits for five of its seven rigs operating in Nigeria due to its probe. If those permits cannot be obtained, “we may need to terminate the drilling contract,” it said in an SEC filing.

UNSEALED

So far, U.S. authorities have nabbed two oil services companies, Baker Hughes Inc and Vetco International Ltd, for FCPA violations. Baker Hughes reached a \$44.1 million settlement in April with the DOJ and SEC related to a bribery probe of its operations in Nigeria, Angola and Kazakhstan.

Baker Hughes pleaded guilty to FCPA violations and agreed to hire an outside monitor to oversee its compliance.

Two shareholder groups have sued Baker Hughes’ officers and directors over the violations. In a federal complaint filed in Houston, shareholders allege the company has failed to comply with the FCPA for more than a decade.

“Companies have a lot of opportunities to do the right thing,” Ann Ritter, an attorney with South Carolina based firm Motley Rice, who represents the Sheet Metal Workers’ National Pension Fund. “And activist shareholders have a chance to use their voice to try and help them move in the right direction.”

A spokesman for Baker Hughes was not available to comment on the lawsuits.

In February, three Vetco subsidiaries pleaded guilty to violating anti-bribery provisions of the FCPA and agreed to a \$26 million fine. According to court documents, the wholly owned subsidiaries admitted they violated and conspired to violate the law in connection with the payment of about \$2.1 million to Nigerian government officials.

“It’s a tough problem for companies,” said Cherie Taylor, a law professor at the South Texas College of Law in Houston. “But on the other hand, we’ve got no hope of getting those countries to get in line if we don’t lead by example.”

As featured in Business Week on July 12, 2007

Saying No to an LBO

Shareholders are fighting “lowball” buyout bids—and finding an ally in the courts

by Christopher Palmeri

Not long ago, billionaire investor Carl C. Icahn's bid for Lear Corp. (LEA) would have been a slam dunk. The \$36-a-share offer, disclosed on Feb. 5, was 80% higher than the stock price a few months earlier. And both the board and Chief Executive Robert E. Rossiter had given their blessing.

But within days, Classic Fund Management, a big investor, sued to block the deal, arguing Rossiter had personal motives for pushing it. The court sided with the plaintiffs. As part of the ruling, Lear had to reveal to shareholders that Rossiter had asked the board to cash out his \$11.6 million retirement plan; he later decided not to move forward after consultants said it would alarm investors. The Icahn deal would trigger that payout and allow Rossiter to keep his job. In an opinion on June 15, Delaware State Court Vice-Chancellor Leo E. Strine Jr., who stopped short of blocking the deal outright, noted that Rossiter didn't act improperly but said the deal “presented him with a viable route for accomplishing important personal objectives.” Says Lear's general counsel: “We weren't trying to hide anything.” Icahn has since upped his bid to \$37.25, and the vote is set for July 16. “We think we're paying full price,” says Icahn.

Battles like the one at Lear are playing out across the private equity landscape. In recent months shareholders have become increasingly hostile toward managements and boards for accepting what they perceive to be lowball bids, and they have been aggressively filing suits to block deals. Such tactics are nothing new. The difference now is that investors are starting to win. “You're seeing real skepticism,” says Kenton J. King, an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. “Judges are asking if there isn't something else going on, other than getting the most value for shareholders.”

With the buyout boom turning into a frenzy, private equity firms are feeling pressure from all sides. Politicos are bashing the group's big pay packages and beneficial tax treatments. Trade unions are complaining about the layoffs that often follow deals. Now judges are scolding CEOs who seem to be teaming up with private equity players at the expense of shareholders. The growing backlash comes at a time when borrowing costs are rising and firms are fretting that the bargains are gone. With investors and judges also pushing private equity to boost bids, it raises the likelihood that the current wave of deals will deliver meager returns, if not losses.

The Delaware courts took a bat to the buyout plans of Topps Co. (TOPP). In March, Michael D. Eisner, former CEO OF Walt Disney Co. (DIS), and Chicago private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners signed a deal to acquire bubble gum and trading-card maker Topps for \$9.75-a-share, or \$385 million. Three weeks later rival Upper Deck Co. submitted a \$10.75 bid to the board. But Topps' board said in a statement that such a merger might raise antitrust concerns and argued that Upper Deck hadn't proved it had enough financing to fund the deal. The company scheduled a vote for Eisner's offer.

The courts, though, decided investors needed more details about potential conflicts. Strine, the same judge in the Lear suit, ruled in mid-June that Topps needed to disclose two previous bids by Upper Deck. He also said management should tell investors that Eisner planned to keep Topps' management in place. CEO Arthur T. Shorin would stay on as a

As featured in Business Week on July 12, 2007 (continued)

consultant, while Scott Silverstein, his son-in-law and the company's current president, and others would have a spot at the company—assurances Upper Deck didn't make. "Shorin has known that time is running out for him," Strine wrote in his recent opinion. "He was motivated to find a buyer that would guarantee that Shorin and his son-in-law would continue to play leading roles at Topps."

As featured in the Wall Street Journal on July 12, 2007

Court Faults Buyouts

Delaware Rulings Raise Disclosure Questions in Topps, Lear Deals

by Peter Lattman and Dana Cimilluca

The private-equity buyout boom has found critics in Congress and among some investors recently. Now the country's most important court for corporate law has raised questions about some deals.

In recent back-to-back opinions, the Delaware Court of Chancery criticized two publicly listed companies that have agreed to sell themselves to private investors.

The rulings expressed concern that Topps Co. and Lear Corp. hadn't disclosed enough information to shareholders about possible incentives the companies' managements may have to agree to the deals. That information is important for shareholders, who must vote to approve them, the court ruled. The rulings require both companies to disclose additional information.

The decisions could slow the pace of some transactions, said Robert Thompson, a corporate law professor at Vanderbilt University. "If you give incomplete information to shareholders, the court will hold up your deal, or worse, make you go back to the drawing board and redo it."

Because the majority of large public companies are incorporated in Delaware, the five-judge Court of Chancery is an influential forum for litigating corporate-governance issues and takeover disputes. There are no juries in the cases.

The author of both opinions, 43-year-old Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine Jr., is a colorful figure who has emerged as something of a public face of the court. He has also been an important advocate for shareholder rights on the court. "His opinions carry a lot of weight," says Francis Pileggi, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in Wilmington, who has known Mr. Strine since 1992, when Mr. Pileggi was running for state representative in Delaware.

In the case of Lear, an auto-parts maker that billionaire financier Carl Icahn is seeking to buy for \$2.9 billion, Mr. Strine faulted the company's board for letting Chief Executive Robert E. Rossiter negotiate the deal with Mr. Icahn on his own.

He also said shareholders should have been told more about an issue involving Mr. Rossiter's pension that could give him an incentive that other stockholders didn't share to favor the deal. In the case of Topps, Mr. Strine ruled that the trading-card company should have been more forthcoming about an agreement with the suitor to retain Topps's management.

In another ruling in March aimed at protecting shareholders in private-equity transactions, Mr. Strine criticized Netsmart Technologies Inc. for agreeing to an acquisition by two private-equity firms without canvassing possible corporate buyers. He ordered the company to disclose additional information about the transaction, which closed in April.

Mr. Strine declined to comment for this article.

As featured in the Wall Street Journal on July 12, 2007 (continued)

The Delaware court's increased scrutiny of possible conflicts comes amid rising complaints, and more lawsuits, criticizing buyout deals for allegedly enriching corporate executives at the expense of the shareholders.

The leverage-buyout boom has run into other head winds recently. Congress is threatening to raise taxes on private-equity firms and their executives. Meanwhile, credit investors, until recently eager to finance buyout activity, are also tightening their purse strings.

Some recent shareholder protests have succeeded in forcing companies to go back and secure higher prices from private-equity firms that agreed to buy them. Clear Channel Communications Inc., for example, agreed to a leveraged-buyout deal with the family that runs it and two private-equity firms. Amid several lawsuits and a shareholder outcry claiming the deal shortchanged the public shareholders, the buyers had to raise their offer by about \$800 million, to more than \$19 billion, to win support from key shareholders. At Biomet Inc. and OSI Restaurant Partners Inc., shareholders also fought for and won richer buyout offers.

Some boards appear to have been altering their behavior even before the rulings. The board of Cablevision Systems Inc. waited more than a year before accepting the third offer made by the Dolan family for the New York media company this year. Some shareholders still criticize the \$10.6 billion proposal as too low.

In recent weeks, several major law firms have alerted their corporate clients to the Delaware rulings, saying that boards need to be more attuned to the enhanced scrutiny of private-equity deals.

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati LLP reminded boards to be candid with their shareholders. "Sometimes more than the literal truth may be required to be disclosed," the firm wrote in a so-called client alert. Quoting the court's opinion, the firm told the boards they need to "avoid making materially misleading disclosures, which tell a distorted rendition of events or obscure material facts."

The issues raised by Mr. Strine differ from the legal concerns that emerged with the buyout boom of the 1980s. That era was marked by so-called corporate raiders. They offered shareholders rich premiums for their companies and vowed to remove existing management and boards. In those deals, Delaware courts examined shareholder allegations that company management and boards had rejected rich, hostile bids to keep their jobs.

In the current buyout craze, many buyout firms retain the management by offering rich pay packages and a stake in the newly private entity. These deals are being challenged in the courts by shareholders who allege that they are getting a meager payout for the company. They say boards are accepting deals based on factors other than the best-available price. In addition, shareholders are accusing boards of running into the friendly arms of private-equity buyers to escape activist hedge funds, who are trying to oust them through proxy battles.

In the case of Topps, the New York producer of trading cards, collectibles and candy, shareholders have accused the board of breaching its duties to get the highest price for the company when it agreed to a deal with a private-equity consortium led by Michael Eisner, the former Walt Disney Co. chief executive. The lawsuit alleges that the board, under pressure from an activist hedge fund, viewed Mr. Eisner as a friendly suitor who had pledged to retain management. While the court found no fault in the board's decision to negotiate exclusively with Mr. Eisner, it criticized Topps for the way in which it prevented a rival, the Upper Deck Co., from launching a tender offer for the company.



As featured in the Wall Street Journal on July 12, 2007 (continued)

The court issued an order postponing the shareholder vote on the deal until Topps discloses the additional information to shareholders. This week, Topps said that its shareholders should reject a tender offer Upper Deck ended up making, but that it would continue talking with its rival to reach agreement on a higher price.

“When directors bias the process against one bidder and toward another not in a reasoned effort to maximize advantage for the stockholders, but to tilt the process toward the bidder more likely to continue current management, they commit a breach of fiduciary duty,” Mr. Strine warned in his Topps opinion.

As featured in the Charleston Gazette on July 06, 2007

Shareholder sues Massey, alleging mismanagement

By Ken Ward Jr., Staff writer

A shareholder who alleges mismanagement at Richmond, Va.-based Massey Energy is suing the coal giant's executives and board members.

The suit was filed earlier this week in Kanawha Circuit Court by a trust that funds asbestos settlements with former Johns Manville Corp. workers.

Massey President Don Blankenship and 13 current corporate board members, executives and former board members were named as defendants.

The case is a shareholder derivative suit. Technically, such suits are filed on behalf of the company by shareholders against corporate managers because of alleged mismanagement of the company.

The suit alleges a "conscious failure" by Massey management "to comply with applicable environmental and worker-safety laws and regulations." It says failure has "caused and will continue to cause severe injury to the company by consciously ignoring Massey Energy's legal obligations to comply with federal and state law, thereby exposing the company to a substantial threat of monetary liability for violations."

Among other things, the suit cites a recent federal lawsuit over repeated water pollution violations, hefty fines for the deaths of two miners in the Aracoma Mine fire, and a nearly \$2 million verdict against Massey for firing a worker who complained about safety problems.

The Manville Personal Injury Trust owns about 1,000 shares of Massey stock, according to the lawsuit.

The trust was created in 1986 as part of the bankruptcy reorganization of the Johns Manville Corp.

The trust was formed to compensate workers injured by exposure to asbestos or asbestos-containing products made or sold by Manville. The trust invests its financial holdings in the stock market to fund worker compensation.

The suit was filed on the trust's behalf by former Kanawha Circuit Judge Andrew MacQueen.

The trust is also represented by the South Carolina firm of Motley Rice, whose founder, Ronald L. Motley, was among the first lawyers to take on the asbestos industry, and by the Delaware firm Rigrinsky & Long, which specializes in shareholder lawsuits.

In December 2005, Massey management settled a previous shareholder derivative case filed in Boone Circuit Court. Among other things, the settlement increased the number of board members governing Massey.

Last month, Massey cut two seats from its board, after two hedge fund officials who opposed Blankenship's leadership resigned in frustration.

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Exhibit E

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION

FILED

APR 9 2007

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY [Signature]
DEPUTY CLERK

In re

Case No. A-06-CA-726-SS

DELL INC., SECURITIES LITIGATION

ORDER

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 9th day of April 2007 the Court reviewed the file in the above-styled cause, specifically the motions for appointment as lead plaintiff filed by the Institutional Investor Group [#20, #137], the Pension Fund Group [#25], the Boca Raton Police and Firefighters' Retirement System [#26], Union Asset Management Holding AG [#39], and I.U.O.E Local 68 Pension and Annuity Funds [consolidated complaint]. Having considered these motions, the memoranda filed in support and opposition thereto, the applicable law, and the consolidated case file as a whole, the Court now enters the following opinion and order.

Background

This case consolidates four class actions alleging violations under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u-4, and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder. Plaintiff Marc Abrams filed this action on September 13, 2006, individually and on behalf of all those who purchased common stock of Dell, Inc. ("Dell") between February of 2003 and September of 2006. Abrams claims Dell, during this period, disseminated materially false and misleading statements regarding its earnings and expected growth and reported incorrect financial data in its required SEC filings.

BP

As required by the PSLRA, counsel for Abrams published notice of the pending class action in a “widely circulated national business-oriented publication or wire service” on September 13, 2006. 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i). On November 13, 2006, several parties moved to be appointed lead plaintiff in this case pursuant to the PSLRA.¹ Abrams moved to appoint the Institutional Investor Group (made up of plaintiffs Wolverhampton City Council and Amalgamated Bank) as Lead Plaintiff with Joe Kendall of Provost & Umphrey LLP and Patrick Coughlin of Lerach Coughlin Stoia Gellar Rudman & Robbins LLP as Co-Lead Counsel. The Pension Fund Group (made up of Plaintiffs Mississippi Public Employees’ Retirement System, Sjunde AP-Fonden, Stichting Pensioenfunds ABP, and Pensionskassernes Administration A/S) also moved for appointment as Lead Plaintiff, with counsel from the law firms of Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. and Schiffrin and Barroway, LLP as Lead Counsel. Plaintiff Union Asset Management Holding AG (“Union”) moved for appointment as Lead Plaintiff with counsel from the firms of Motley Rice LLC and Byrd, Davis, Furman, LLP as Lead Counsel.² The City of Boca Raton Police and Firefighters’ Retirement System filed its motion to be appointed Lead Plaintiff, with counsel from the firm of Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann and Bernstein, LLP as Lead Counsel. Plaintiff I.U.O.E Local 68 Pension and Annuity Funds (“I.U.O.E.”) filed a parallel complaint on November 13, 2006.

On November 16, 2006, the Court held a hearing regarding consolidation of the Abrams and I.U.O.E. complaints and related ERISA and derivative actions against Dell. The Court issued an

¹ On November 13, 2006, the Policemen’s Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago moved for appointment as Lead Plaintiff, but later withdrew the motion. The DeKalb County Pension Fund likewise moved for appointment as Lead Plaintiff on November 13, 2006, but later withdrew the motion.

² Union’s motion is marked “filed” on November 16, 2006, but the motion itself is dated November 13, 2006.

Order directing “each group seeking to be lead counsel and represent the named representative plaintiff” in a consolidated action to “file an amended complaint on or before January 31, 2007, specifically alleging the class or classes to be established and the reasons why it should be selected as lead counsel and its client the named representative plaintiff.” Order of Nov. 16, 2006. In response, the Pension Fund Group filed a parallel lawsuit on January 31, 2007. The Institutional Investor Group also filed a parallel suit on January 31, 2007. Union Asset Management filed an amended complaint in the *Abrams* action on January 31, 2007.

The Court also requested that all named plaintiffs file affidavits (in addition to the certifications required by the PSLRA, 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(2)(A)) “confirming that the client solicited the attorney or firm to represent him . . . and the client made the first contact with the attorney.” Order of Nov. 16, 2006. It appears that *Abrams*, the Pension Fund Group, and Union have filed such affidavits, but no representative of I.U.O.E. Local 68 Pension and Annuity Funds has done so. The additional filings requested by the Court are intended to aid the Court in determining which movant is the most adequate Lead Plaintiff, but the Court will consider each motion filed in accordance with the PSLRA regardless of whether the movant has filed the affidavits and amended complaint requested in the November 16, 2006 Order. See 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i) (the Court “*shall* consider any motion made by a purported class member in response to the notice”) (emphasis added). The Court consolidated the related securities class action complaints on February 28, 2007, and now considers the motions for appointment as Lead Plaintiff.

Analysis

Where a court has pending before it one or more class actions arising under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the PSLRA directs that a Lead Plaintiff be selected early in the case, and that

the Lead Plaintiff is to select and retain lead counsel, subject to court approval. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). One of the main goals of the PSLRA is “to have the plaintiff class, represented by a member with a substantial financial interest in the recovery as incentive, monitor the litigation to prevent its being lawyer-driven.” *See In re Waste Management, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 128 F. Supp. 2d 401, 411-12 (S.D. Tex. 2000).

I. The Most Adequate Plaintiff

The PSLRA provides that the Court shall consider all timely-filed motions made by purported class members seeking to be appointed Lead Plaintiff. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(1). The Court shall appoint as Lead Plaintiff the member or members of the purported plaintiff class that the court considers most capable of adequately representing the interests of the class members. *Id.* This Lead Plaintiff is termed the “most adequate plaintiff.” *Id.*

The PSLRA directs the Court to adopt a presumption that the most adequate plaintiff is the person or group of persons that (1) filed a complaint or a timely motion to be appointed lead plaintiff, (2) “has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class,” and (3) “otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). The PSLRA does not delineate a procedure for determining the “largest financial interest” among the proposed class members. Both the approximate loss claimed and the total number of shares purchased are, however, significant factors in determining the largest financial interest in the litigation. *See, e.g. In re Waste Management, Inc.*, 128 F. Supp. 2d 401, 414 (S.D. Tex. 2000) (“The term ‘largest financial interest’ . . . should be read broadly in terms of (1) the number of shares purchased, (2) the number of net shares purchased, (3) the total net funds expended by the plaintiff(s) during the class period, and (4) the approximate losses suffered by the

plaintiff(s).”) (citation omitted). Accordingly, the Court considers the number of shares purchased and the total loss claimed by each movant in determining which proposed Lead Plaintiff has the largest financial interest in this litigation.

The Court has five motions for appointment as Lead Plaintiff to consider:

Proposed Lead Plaintiff	Proposed Lead Counsel	Claimed Losses	Shares Purchased
Pension Fund Group	Grant & Eisenhofer P.A.; Schiffman Barroway Topaz & Kessler, LLP	\$87.93 million	18.84 million
Union Asset Management Holding AG	Motley Rice LLC	\$20.25 million	3.23 million
Institutional Investors’ Group	Lerach Coughlin Stoia Gellar Rudman & Robbins LLP	\$5.86 million	629,412
I.U.O.E. Local 68 Annuity & Pension Fund	Seeger Weiss LLP	\$1.32 million	59,522
City of Boca Raton Police & Firefighters Retirement System	Lieff Cabraser Heiman & Bernstein LLP	\$235,483.98	41,300

II. Aggregation of Financial Interests

Several of the proposed Lead Plaintiffs are actually small groups of investors. In particular, the Pension Fund Group (“PFG”) is made up of four separate entities: Stichting Pensioenfond ABP (“ABP”), Mississippi PERS (“Mississippi”), Sjunde AP-Fonden (“AP7”), and Pensionskassernes Administration A/S (“PKA”). The Institutional Investors’ Group (“IIG”) is made up of two separate entities: Amalgamated Bank and the Wolverhampton City Council. Finally, Union Asset Management Holding AG (“Union”) is a fund manager that manages seven different funds (“the

Union funds”). Each of these groups has claimed losses based on aggregating the total losses suffered by each member. Courts are divided over whether multiple plaintiffs may be aggregated to satisfy the “largest financial interest” requirement. *See Yousefi v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, 70 F. Supp. 2d 1061, 1067 (C.D. Cal. 1999) (collecting cases). The majority of courts addressing this issue, however, have permitted the aggregation of claims. *See, e.g., In re Advanced Tissue Sciences Sec. Litig.*, 184 F.R.D. 346, 353 (S.D. Cal. 1998) (allowing the aggregation of six plaintiffs); *In re Oxford Health Plans, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 182 F.R.D. 42, 45-48 (S.D. N.Y. 1998) (appointing three plaintiffs as lead plaintiffs); *Chill v. Green Tree Financial Corp.*, 181 F.R.D. 398, 409 (D. Minn. 1998) (aggregating six plaintiffs). Courts have arrived at this result because the Act expressly permits a court to appoint more than one lead plaintiff. The court “shall appoint as lead plaintiff the member *or members* of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members.” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i) (emphasis added).

Courts within this Circuit, however, tend to adopt a “strict” view of aggregation, reasoning that although there is “no textual statutory obstacle to considering the [grouped] plaintiffs’ financial interests together,” *Bell v. Ascendant Solutions, Inc.*, No. 3:01-CV-0166-P, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6850 (N.D. Tex. April 17, 2002), the express purpose of the PSLRA is to ensure that securities litigation is overseen by competent interested parties rather than driven by lawyers. *Id.* To ensure the type of proactive representation by plaintiffs envisioned by the PSLRA, a strict definition of appropriate “group” plaintiffs should be adopted, “requiring at maximum a small group with the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation and a pre-litigation relationship based on more than their losing investment.” *In re Waste Management*, 128 F. Supp. 2d at 413. Under this

“strict” aggregation approach, “[t]he burden is on those seeking to aggregate to demonstrate the cohesiveness of their purported ‘group’ and . . . failure to provide significant information about the identity of the members other than a conclusory statement of names, transactions for purchase of securities, and largest financial interest should result in denial of their application for appointment as Lead Plaintiff.” *Id.* (citing *Switzenbaum v. Orbital Sciences Corp.* (“Orbital I”), 187 F.R.D. 246, 250 (E.D. Va. 1999)).

The Institutional Investors’ Group argues the Court should not consider the Pension Fund Group’s aggregate loss because this group is “lawyer-driven,” cobbled together for the purpose of achieving the greatest aggregated financial interest in the case. This is an interesting argument from a group whose own filings show no evidence whatsoever of any relationship between the entities beyond this litigation, and whose counsel initially represented a totally different named plaintiff (Abrams) whose losses were much smaller. Nevertheless, the Institutional Investors’ Group makes a good point. Neither PFG nor IIG has shown any non-litigation relationship between the members of the proposed Lead Plaintiff groups.

PFG argues its members are not an unrelated group because two of its members, ABP and Mississippi, are currently serving together as lead plaintiffs in *In re Delphi Corporation Sec. Litig.*, No. 06-10026 (E.D. Mich.); and AP7 and PKA previously filed a joint lead plaintiff motion in *In re UnitedHealth Group Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, No. 06-cv-1691-JMR-FLN (D. Minn. May 5, 2006). This argument, however, does little to counter the argument that the Pension Fund Group’s relationship is “lawyer-driven” and arises out of litigation alone. The Court also notes that PFG member Mississippi is presumptively disqualified from serving as a lead plaintiff, because it has participated

as lead plaintiff in more than five securities class actions in the last 3 years. 15 U.S.C. §784-4(a)(3)(B)(5).

Though some courts have adopted group Lead Plaintiffs on the theory that diversity among plaintiffs helps ensure that all class members' interests are represented, *see, e.g. In re Oxford Health Plans, Inc., Sec. Litig.*, 182 F.R.D. 42, 49 (S.D.N.Y. 1998), there is no such diversity in either of the groups proposed by PFG or IIG. All of the members of these proposed groups are institutional investors. With respect to the Lead Plaintiff groups proposed by PFG and IIG, the Court finds no “advantages that outweigh the disservice to the PSLRA’s interest in creating a small number of lead plaintiffs to counterbalance the influence of lawyers.” *Bell*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6850.

In contrast, Union Asset Management, AG (“Union”) is a single fund management company that oversees several different funds. The Court in *In re Waste Management* recognized that “[a]n institutional investor that invests the monies pooled into it from numerous, interrelated funds, . . . under the direction of a single individual” functions as a single investor under the PSLRA. *In re Waste Mgmt.*, 128 F. Supp. 2d at 432. Even if Union is considered as a group of separate investors, aggregation of their losses is appropriate because the funds have “a pre-litigation relationship based on more than their losing investment.” *Id.* at 413.

III. ABP is the Presumptively Most Adequate Plaintiff

Even when considered in the aggregate, however, Union has the second-largest claimed loss in this litigation. The PFG’s largest member, Stichting Pensioenfonds ABP (“ABP”) purchased 18,484,148 shares of Dell stock during the class period and claims a loss of \$68 million. The PFG has requested that ABP be considered as an alternate Lead Plaintiff movant if the Court rejects its

group motion. Accordingly, the Court considers whether ABP, the movant with the largest financial interest in this litigation, is the most adequate plaintiff under the PSLRA.

“The rebuttable presumption created by the PSLRA, which favors the plaintiff with the largest financial interest, was not intended to obviate the principle of providing the class with the most adequate representation and in general the Act must be viewed against established principles regarding Rule 23 class actions.” *In re Oxford Health Plans, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 182 F.R.D. at 49. *See* Although the inquiry at this stage of the litigation in determining the Lead Plaintiff is not as searching as the one triggered by a subsequent motion for class certification, the proposed Lead Plaintiff must make at least a preliminary showing that it has claims that are typical of those of the putative class and the capacity to provide adequate representation for those class members. *In re Waste Management, Inc.*, 128 F. Supp. 2d at 411. Only the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23 are directly relevant to the choice of the Lead Plaintiff in securities fraud cases. *Id.*

The proposed Lead Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the class if there are “no differences among the class members that would substantially alter the proof required for one member’s claims versus another’s.” *Bell*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6850 (citing *Gluck v. CellStar Corp.*, 976 F. Supp. 542, 546 (N.D. Tex. 1997)). It is not necessary that a proposed Lead Plaintiff’s claims be identical to the claims of other class members. *Id.* ABP, as a member of the PFG, has submitted a complaint alleging it, like other members of the proposed class, purchased Dell securities and lost money as a result of Dell’s material misstatements and omissions. Though the class period differs slightly from the period alleged in the other complaints, and ABP is not pursuing some of the defendants and claims at issue in the related cases, there is no significant difference in the proof required to prove

ABP's claims and the claims asserted by other named plaintiffs in these related cases. Therefore, ABP's claims are typical of the proposed class.

"[T]he adequacy requirement mandates an inquiry into [1] the zeal and competence of the representative[s] counsel and . . . [2] the willingness and ability of the representatives to take an active role in and control the litigation and to protect the interests of absentees[.]" *Berger v. Compaq Computer Corp.*, 257 F.3d 475, 479 (5th Cir. 2001) (citation omitted). There is no question that APB's chosen counsel is competent and zealous; the detailed complaint and the thorough pleadings filed in connection with ABP/PFG's Lead Plaintiff Motion are ample proof of that. ABP's affidavit, filed in response to this Court's Order of November 16, 2006, establishes that ABP is prepared to take an active role in the litigation.

Because ABP filed a timely motion (as part of the Pension Fund Group) to be appointed Lead Plaintiff, has the largest financial interest in this litigation, and satisfies the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23, ABP is presumptively the "most adequate plaintiff" under the PSLRA. This presumption may be rebutted only by proof by another member of the purported plaintiff class that the presumptively most adequate plaintiff "will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class" or "is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class." *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

IV. Rebutting the Presumption

Union Asset Management and the Institutional Investors' Group present several challenges to ABP's ability to fairly and adequately represent the class and allege ABP is subject to multiple unique defenses.

a. PriceWaterhouse Coopers

The Pension Fund Group is the only proposed Lead Plaintiff whose complaint does not name Dell's auditor, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, as a defendant. Union and IIG argue this is because the Pension Fund Group's largest member, ABP, uses the auditing services of a European affiliate of PriceWaterhouseCoopers. In response, ABP points out that the Fifth Circuit rejected a similar conflict of interest challenge in *Feder v. Electronic Data Sys. Corp.*, 429 F.3d 125, 133-34 (5th Cir. 2005). In *Feder*, a defendant argued that the lead plaintiff, the state of New Jersey, was not an adequate class representative because KPMG, a potential defendant, was New Jersey's auditor. Specifically, defendants argued "that New Jersey's failure to name KPMG as a defendant in this case, coupled with the fact that KPMG is New Jersey's auditor, demonstrates a conflict of interest with the class that should disqualify New Jersey from serving as class representative." *Id.* at 134. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals flatly rejected this argument and affirmed the District Court's decision finding New Jersey to be an adequate class representative, holding:

New Jersey is only a client of KPMG-not vice versa-so it has no self-interest in appealing KPMG New Jersey would not necessarily benefit financially by maintaining a good relationship with KPMG. Thus, the Court does not believe there are unique circumstances here that threaten adequacy.

Id. at 135 (quoting *In re Electronic Data Sys. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 226 F.R.D. 559, 570 (E.D. Tex. 2005)). However, the *Feder* Court based its decision on the facts of the case: plaintiffs alleged the defendant had "concealed its fraud from the market and from [the auditor]." *Id.* In contrast, the complaints filed by IIG and by Union in this case both allege PriceWaterhouseCoopers was complicit and actively participated in Dell's alleged fraudulent scheme. In particular, many of the securities fraud allegations against Dell rest on its use of non-GAAP accounting procedures in SEC filings;

PriceWaterhouseCoopers approved Dell's accounting methods and signed off on these filings. In these circumstances, it is somewhat troubling that ABP has not named PriceWaterhouseCoopers as a defendant. Although "generally, failure to join all defendants is a strategy choice, and . . . is probably not grounds for finding inadequacy," *id.* at 135 (quoting *Paper Systems, Incorporated v. Mitsubishi Corporation*, 193 F.R.D. 601 (E.D. Wis. 2000)), it is also true that "[t]he omission to sue a potential defendant cannot but prejudice the class." *Dubin v. Miller*, 132 F.R.D. 269, 272 (D. Colo. 1990). In these circumstances, "plaintiff is obligated to supply a persuasive reason for the non-joinder." *Id.*

ABP asserts that it is merely following the Court's directive to "be careful whom you sue" and further argues that, if selected as lead plaintiff, it "may well name PwC as a defendant if the circumstances warrant." Reply at 7. ABP points out that in a case pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, ABP named as a defendant PricewaterhouseCoopers U.K, LLP, a European subsidiary of PriceWaterhouseCoopers. See *Stichting Pensioenfonds ABP V. Royal Dutch Shell plc*, Civil Action No. 06-095. Nevertheless, in light of ABP's relationship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the detailed allegations against this auditing firm filed by other proposed Lead Plaintiffs, the Court is troubled by ABP's failure to join PriceWaterhouseCoopers as defendants in their Amended Complaint. The Court need not determine whether this potential conflict of interest is fatal, however, because ABP is also subject to unique defenses that disqualify it as an appropriate Lead Plaintiff.

b. Short selling

Union Asset Management asserts that ABP is not the most adequate plaintiff because it adopts both long and short selling strategies and would therefore be subject to unique defenses.

Several courts have rejected short-sellers as potential lead plaintiffs in securities class actions, even where those plaintiffs also took “long” market positions, reasoning that short sales are inconsistent with the fraud-on-the-market theory on which most securities fraud claims are based. *In re Critical Path*, 156 F. Supp. 2d 1102, 1109-1110 (D. Cal. 2001); see also *In re Bank One Shareholders Class Actions*, 96 F. Supp. 2d 780 (N.D. Ill. 2000). “Short sales raise the question of whether the seller was actually relying on the market price, and the class is not served by its representative coming under such scrutiny.” *In re Critical Path*, 156 F. Supp. at 1109. Each of the complaints filed in the related Dell Securities Class Actions relies on the fraud-on-the-market theory. Therefore, ABP’s position as a short-seller may well undermine the claims of the other class members.

V. Union is Entitled to the Presumption

Union, the proposed Lead Plaintiff with the next largest financial interest in this case, has not taken any short positions on Dell stock and its fraud-on-the-market claims would not be subject to this defense. Nor has any other movant identified a potential conflict of interest between Union and the proposed class. Union satisfies the adequacy and typicality requirements of Rule 23. The detailed complaint and affidavit Union filed in response to this Court’s Order of November 16, 2006 establish that Union has claims for securities fraud similar to those of the other class members and is prepared to take an active role in the litigation.

The Institutional Investors’ Group objects that Union is a foreign entity. IIG argues that foreign entities should be “appointed alongside qualified and experienced American investors” in order to avoid unique defenses and mitigate the inconvenience of long-distance litigation. IIG, however, fails to identify any particular defense or inconvenience that would disqualify Union Asset Management. “There is, of course, a marked difference between affirmatively demonstrating that

[the presumptive Lead Plaintiff] is not an adequate representative or is subject to unique defenses and simply claiming that [Plaintiff] might be subject to such arguments in the future.” *Gluck*, 976 F. Supp. at 547. There is neither a bar nor a presumption against appointing foreign entities to serve as lead plaintiff, particularly where, as here, the defendant is a U.S. company and the foreign entities bought their shares in the United States. *See In Re NPS Pharms., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 2:06-00570, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 87231, at *13 (D. Ut. Nov. 17, 2006) (rejecting challenge to foreign lead plaintiff movant as inadequate or subject to unique defense, holding “concerns over subject matter jurisdiction and res judicata . . . are not present” where the foreign plaintiffs purchased stock in a United States company via a United States stock exchange). *See also In re Molson Coors Brewing Co. Sec. Litig.*, 233 F.R.D. 147, 153 (D. Del. 2005) (court appointed German investment manager lead plaintiff, calling “res judicata argument a red herring”); *In re Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Sec. Litig.*, No 5:03-2166, 2004 U.S. Dist Lexis 27043 (N.D. Ohio May 12, 2004) (appointing Austrian institution as lead plaintiff, holding “[t]he...attempt to discredit Capital Invest on the ground that it is a non-domestic (Austrian) investment firm...is insupportable.”); *Newman v. Eagle Bldg. Techs.*, 209 F.R.D. 499, 505 (S.D. Fla. 2002)(“In light of today’s travel and communication methods, the geographical location of the [foreign lead plaintiff movants] is irrelevant”).

Because ABP, the Plaintiff with the largest financial interest in this litigation, is subject to unique defenses, it is not the most adequate plaintiff. Union Asset Management Holding AG has the next largest financial interest in the case, satisfies the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23, and has timely filed a motion to be appointed Lead Plaintiff. Union is therefore presumptively the most adequate plaintiff. No other movant has shown that Union would be subject to unique defenses or would be unable to adequately represent the class. Furthermore, Union’s

relationship with its chosen counsel is exactly the type of relationship the PSLRA seeks to sponsor: Union is an institutional investor “dedicated to the strengthening of corporate governance to protect investors.” Affid. Gaebel & Von Cornberg, Mot. for Appt. as Lead Pl. Ex. D. After evaluating the merits of the case and the extent of its losses, Union decided to move for appointment as lead plaintiff and selected the firm of Motley Rice as proposed Lead Counsel. *Id.* Union worked with Motley Rice to select Byrd Davis Furman L.L.P. as liason counsel. *Id.* It seems clear from the affidavit of Union’s in-house counsel that Union is firmly in the drivers’ seat with regard to this litigation. Appointing this institutional investor as Lead Plaintiff and approving its choice of Lead Counsel will serve the PSLRA’s goal of encouraging shareholders to protect their interests via securities class actions while discouraging “lawyer-driven” litigation.

Conclusion

Accordingly,

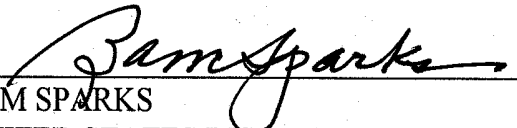
IT IS ORDERED that the Motion for Appointment of Lead Plaintiff of Union Asset Management Holding AG [#39] is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Union’s choice of Lead Counsel and Liason Counsel is APPROVED. The firm of Motley Rice appears to have extensive experience in securities class action litigation, and the local firm of Byrd Davis Furman is amply qualified to assist as liason counsel in this matter. Ronald Motley, Joseph Rice, Lauren S. Antonino, James M. Hughes, and Ann Kimmel Ritter of Motley Rice LLC are appointed Lead Counsel in this case, and Don L. Davis of Byrd Davis Furman is appointed Liason Counsel.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the miscellaneous motions to file supplemental briefing and pleadings over the page limit regarding the Motions for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff [Documents

#21, #137, #144] are GRANTED. The Court gave full consideration to all arguments on this important threshold issue in the consolidated securities class action.

SIGNED this the 9th day of April 2007.



SAM SPARKS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

MASSACHUSETTS LABORERS’	§	
ANNUITY FUND, <i>et al.</i> ,	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. H-06-3022
	§	
ENCYSIVE PHARMACEUTICALS	§	
INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	§	
Defendants.	§	

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This is a consolidated action brought under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by investors who purchased publicly traded securities of Encysive Pharmaceuticals Inc. (“Encysive”). The case is now before the Court on Motions to be Appointed Lead Plaintiff filed by The Graham Group [Doc. # 14] and Oppenheim Pramerica Asset Management S.á.r.l. (“OPAM”) [Doc. # 19].¹ Each of these parties seeks appointment as lead plaintiff in this case pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (“PSLRA”), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4.

¹ Fernando Dow, the Massachusetts Laborers’ Pension and Annuity Fund, and the Scott Group have withdrawn their requests to be appointed lead plaintiff, leaving the Graham Group and OPAM as the only parties currently requesting appointment as lead plaintiff.

OPAM responded to the Graham Group's Motion [Doc. # 38], and the Graham Group responded to OPAM's Motion [Doc. # 42]. The Graham Group filed a reply [Doc. # 54], as did OPAM [Doc. # 55]. Following a hearing on January 18, 2007, the parties supplemented their briefing. OPAM filed a supplement to its original Motion [Doc. # 60], to which both Encysive² [Doc. # 61] and the Graham Group [Doc. # 62] responded. The Graham Group filed a Reply to Encysive's response [Doc. # 63], OPAM filed a "Supplemental Reply Brief" [Doc. # 64], and the Graham Group filed its own "Supplemental Reply Brief" [Doc. # 73].

Having reviewed the parties' submissions, all matters of record, and the relevant legal authorities, the Court **appoints** OPAM as lead plaintiff in this matter. The Court **appoints** Motley Rice LLC as lead counsel and Zummo & Midkiff, L.L.P. as liaison counsel.

I. BACKGROUND

Encysive, a pharmaceutical firm based in Houston, Texas, developed Thelin, a drug intended to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Encysive allegedly claimed that Thelin had reached an advanced stage in the review process at the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"). Plaintiffs allege that expectations for the profitability of this

² Encysive, the defendant in this matter, takes no position regarding whether OPAM or the Graham Group should be appointed lead plaintiff. *See* Statement of Defendants Regarding Lead Plaintiff Motions [Doc. # 55].

new drug caused the value of Encysive's shares to increase, allowing the company to complete two successful public offerings.

In March 2006, however, the FDA asked Encysive to provide more information and advised Encysive it might be required to conduct further studies to ensure that Thelin was safe and effective. The FDA announced that it would withhold approval of the drug pending its review of the new data. The price of Encysive's stock fell 49% on the news, dropping from \$9.08 to \$4.60 per share. When Encysive acknowledged in July that the FDA still had concerns, the shares' value dropped an additional 40%.

Plaintiffs allege that Encysive and its officers made misleading statements regarding Thelin's anticipated commercial value and its prospects for FDA approval, and failed to disclose adverse material facts. Plaintiffs also allege that Encysive's officers engaged in insider trading to capture profits from the company's artificially high valuation. Massachusetts Laborers' Annuity Fund and others filed suit against Encysive in the fall 2006. All of the lawsuits have been consolidated into this case.

II. THE PSLRA

The PSLRA requires plaintiffs in a securities fraud case to publish a notice to members of the prospective class, informing them of "the pendency of the action, the claims asserted therein, and the purported class period." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i)(I). Within 60 days of the notice, any prospective class member may file

a motion to serve as lead plaintiff for the class. *Id.* The court is then required to “appoint as lead plaintiff the member or members of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i).

The court’s selection of a lead plaintiff is guided by a rebuttable presumption that the party that responded to the initial notice, has the largest financial interest in the case, and meets the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 is the “the most adequate plaintiff.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). The presumption may be rebutted with evidence that the prospective lead plaintiff “will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class” or “is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

The Fifth Circuit has stated that “Congress enacted the ‘lead plaintiff’ provisions of the PSLRA, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B), to direct courts to appoint, as lead plaintiff, the most sophisticated investor available and willing so to serve in a putative securities class action. Insofar as possible following the procedure prescribed by § 78u-4(a)(3)(B), the lead plaintiff should be an investor capable of understanding and controlling the litigation.” *Berger v. Compaq Computer Corp.*, 279 F.3d 313 (5th Cir. 2002).

III. ANALYSIS

A. Initial Presumption

Each candidate filed its Motion within the requisite time period. Therefore, in order to apply the statutory rebuttable presumption that one candidate is more fit to serve as lead plaintiff, the Court looks to the candidates' comparative losses and considers whether the candidates satisfy the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23.

The Graham Group consists of a husband, his wife, and a family testamentary trust for which the husband is the trustee. It claims to be a cohesive group, able to make joint decisions based on their marital relationship. The Graham Group asserts, as does OPAM, that its claims are typical of the claims of members of the proposed Class. It represents that it is "prepared to direct the course of this Action and to fulfill their responsibilities as class representative." *See* Memorandum of Law in Support of the Motion of the Graham Group ("Graham Group Memorandum") [Doc. # 15], at 6. The Graham Group alleges a loss of \$384,371.40.

OPAM is a large "fund company that launches and manages investment funds under Luxembourgian law." Memorandum of Law in Support of the Motion of OPAM ("OPAM Memorandum") [Doc. # 23], at 6. Its institutional status weighs in its favor in the Court's analysis, as "Congress has unequivocally expressed its preference for

securities fraud litigation to be directed by large institutional investors.”³ *Gluck v. Cellstar Corp.*, 976 F. Supp. 542, 548 (N.D. Tex. 1997). OPAM’s fund lost over \$1.67 million, approximately four times the Graham Group’s losses.

The Court finds that OPAM’s claims are typical because they “arise from the same event or course of conduct that gives rise to claims of other class members and the claims are based on the same legal theory.” *See Longden v. Sunderman*, 123 F.R.D. 547, 556 (N.D. Tex. 1988). OPAM has established the “adequacy” requirement of Rule 23 by showing that it does not have a conflict with the class,⁴ that it is willing and able to take an active role in the litigation and protect the class members’ interests, and that it has chosen qualified, experienced counsel. *See, e.g., Berger v. Compaq Computer Corp.*, 257 F.3d 475, 479 (5th Cir. 2001).

In its Response, the Graham Group contends that OPAM has not actually incurred any losses because it is a fund manager, not an investor in its own right. In *In re Molson Coors Brewing Co. Securities Litigation*, 233 F.R.D. 147 (D. Del. 2005),

³ The Graham Group argues that Congress’s preference is for pension funds, not mutual funds, but cites no authority prohibiting mutual funds from serving as lead plaintiff.

⁴ The Graham Group argued that OPAM has a potential conflict of interest based on its fiduciary duties to its own investors. When the Graham Group initially presented this argument, some of OPAM’s investors still owned Encysive shares. Because that is no longer the case, this argument has become moot. Additionally, contrary to the Graham Group’s suspicions, the Court finds nothing nefarious in OPAM’s decision to sell the remaining Encysive shares.

the Delaware district court agreed to attribute a fund's losses to the fund manager where the manager presented evidence through an affidavit that it was an "attorney in fact for the investors in the identified funds, has authority to make decisions and act on their behalf, and is able to recover moneys for them." *Id.* at 152. In this case, OPAM has presented the joint affidavit of Max von Frantzius and Andreas Jockel, OPAM's chief legal counsel and managing director, respectively, attesting that "OPAM controls and manages and is attorney-in-fact for the fund." OPAM Memorandum, Exhibit A, ¶ 2. It is OPAM, not the individuals investing in the various funds managed by OPAM, who makes investment decisions on behalf of those individual investors. The Court agrees with the Delaware Court that this sworn evidence is sufficient to attribute the fund's losses to OPAM for purposes of this securities fraud litigation. Given the magnitude of those losses, OPAM is entitled to the statutory presumption that it is the most appropriate lead plaintiff. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I).

B. Rebuttal Evidence

The PSLRA allows contenders for the role of lead plaintiff to rebut the statutory presumption by submitting proof that the party benefitting from the presumption is subject to unique defenses not applicable to the overall class or that it "will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II). The Graham Group presents several arguments in an attempt to rebut the statutory

presumption in OPAM's favor. For the reasons discussed below, the Court finds none of the arguments persuasive.

The Graham Group challenges OPAM's standing to bring this lawsuit because it is merely a fund manager with an investment advisor, Medical Strategy GmbH ("Medical Strategy"). The evidence does not support the Graham Group's argument. OPAM has submitted sworn testimony from its corporate officers which satisfies the Court that OPAM is authorized to undertake this litigation on behalf of the fund.⁵ OPAM has also shown that it makes the investment decisions for its funds and that its investment advisor is simply that – an independent advisor whose suggestions OPAM can accept or reject. Based on the current record, OPAM appears to have standing to pursue this securities fraud litigation.

The Graham Group also asserts that OPAM cannot adequately represent the interests of the class because it is jointly owned by Sal Oppenheim International, S.A. and Pramerica International, a trade name of Prudential. According to the Graham Group, Prudential was an underwriter for Encysive's public offerings at issue in this suit. The Graham Group argues that Prudential will be "an important fact witness" in this case, and alleges that Prudential may have "contributed in some actionable form

⁵ A similar affidavit was found to be sufficient in *Weinberg v. Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 248, 255 (S.D.N.Y. 2003).

to the misinformation in the market concerning Encysive and its prospects.” *See* Graham Group Response [Doc. # 42], at 9. The Graham Group, however, fails to present sufficient evidence to support its argument and thereby rebut the presumption in OPAM’s favor. In OPAM’s supplementary declaration, Von Frantzius and OPAM senior associate Johann Will state that OPAM has “never discussed its purchase of Encysive stock with Prudential” and that Prudential “has not underwritten any stock for Encysive since 2000.” *See* Von Frantzius/Will Declaration, Exh. B to OPAM’s Reply Memorandum [Doc. # 54], ¶ 5. According to OPAM, Encysive conducted several public offerings after 2000, none of which were underwritten by Prudential. Consequently, Prudential’s role in Encysive’s public offerings predates by six years the drop in share prices on which this suit is predicated, and is not a barrier to OPAM’s appointment as lead plaintiff.

The Graham Group also contends that OPAM’s complex corporate structure and foreign ownership preclude its service as lead plaintiff. The argument is unpersuasive. Courts have appointed foreign corporations as lead plaintiff in similar securities litigation. *See, e.g., In re Molson*, 233 F.R.D. at 151-52. OPAM has clearly indicated its willingness, if appointed lead plaintiff, to send its representatives to the United States to carry out its fiduciary duty to the class. As discussed above, large institutional

investors—which routinely have complex corporate structures—are preferred as lead plaintiffs. *See Gluck*, 976 F. Supp. at 548.

The Graham Group also argues that OPAM, as a foreign entity, may not be bound by *res judicata* in this case. Accordingly, it contends, OPAM would have a reduced incentive to represent the class, because it could later pursue a second round of litigation in a European court. OPAM has, however, affirmed that it and its funds will be bound by any judgment or other order in this case. In reaching its decision to appoint OPAM as lead plaintiff, the Court relies on OPAM’s assertion in this regard, and OPAM will not be allowed to take a different position in the future.

The Graham Group challenges OPAM’s ability to serve as lead plaintiff by questioning OPAM’s liability for potential sanctions and costs. As an initial matter, the Court anticipates that all parties and their counsel will prosecute and defend this case in a professional manner and that, as a result, sanctions will not become an issue. Moreover, OPAM has affirmatively committed to pay any sanctions or costs which may be imposed and the Court will, if necessary, hold OPAM to its commitment.

The Graham Group argues also that OPAM made “off-market” trades that will prevent it from relying on the “fraud on the market” argument on the reliance issue.⁶

⁶ Contrary to the Graham Group’s contention in its “Supplemental Reply Brief,” OPAM has presented clear sworn testimony that all shares of Encysive stock were purchased on the NASDAQ stock exchange. *See* Von Frantzius/Will Declaration, ¶ 6.

In support of this argument, the Graham Group points to trades that are not within the high and low NASDAQ prices for the day indicated. OPAM has shown, however, that the dates listed for its trades are the settlement dates, not the transaction dates as assumed by the Graham Group. As a result, the factual basis for the Graham Group's argument has been refuted.

The Graham Group argues that OPAM will also face a unique challenge to its reliance on the "fraud on the market" argument because the fund's annual report included a statement that its investment strategy was to take advantage of market inefficiency. The Graham Group's reliance on this statement, which is taken out of context, is unpersuasive. The statement is within a section of the 2004 Annual Report [Exh. C to Doc. # 64] describing the large institutional investors' focus on companies with a high market capitalization, leaving companies with smaller capitalization "out of the picture." OPAM describes the result of this lack of institutional investors' research as "an inefficient market for these second-line stocks." OPAM then states that Medical Strategy, its investment advisor, can "exploit this market inefficiency" by conducting its own "carefully targeted analysis" of these "as yet unknown companies." Neither OPAM nor Medical Strategy indicate in the 2004 Annual Report that Encysive is considered an "as yet unknown" company that has been "out of the picture." Indeed, the evidence in the record is to the contrary. Moreover, Medical Strategy has, through

its declaration, stated under oath that it “relied on the integrity of the market for Encysive shares in making its investment recommendation to OPAM” *See* Declaration of Medical Strategy (signed by Michael Fischer, its Chief Executive Officer), Exh. A to Supplemental Reply Brief [Doc. # 64], ¶ 6. The comments in the 2004 Annual Report, when read in context and in light of the record as a whole, do not raise a unique defense against OPAM.

The Graham Group contends that OPAM is a “professional plaintiff,” and that Congress’s intent in crafting the PSLRA was to prevent investors from taking lead roles in multiple securities cases. The PSLRA specifically prohibits any party from being a lead plaintiff in more than five securities class actions during a three-year period. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(vi). Although OPAM has *sought* to become a lead plaintiff in five different securities class actions in 2006, the Graham Group concedes that OPAM has been appointed as a lead plaintiff only once.

III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

OPAM has demonstrated that its losses were significantly greater than any other investor in the proposed class, and more than three times larger than the Graham Group’s losses. It satisfies the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Consequently, OPAM is presumed to be the better


candidate for lead plaintiff. The Graham Group has not refuted this presumption in OPAM's favor. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Oppenheim Pramerica Asset Management S.á.r.l.'s Motion for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and Approval of Its Selection of Counsel [Doc. # 19] is **GRANTED**. OPAM is hereby **APPOINTED** lead plaintiff. The law firm of Motley Rice LLC is **APPOINTED** lead counsel, and Zummo & Midkiff, L.L.P. is **APPOINTED** liaison counsel. It is further

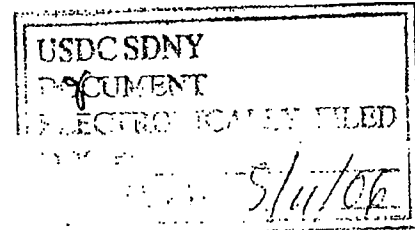
ORDERED that the Graham Group's Motion to be Appointed Lead Plaintiff [Doc. # 14] is **DENIED**.

The Clerk of Court is directed to change the style of this case to reflect that "Oppenheim Pramerica Asset Management S.á.r.l., on behalf of itself and others similarly situated" is the lead plaintiff in this case.

SIGNED at Houston, Texas, this **20th** day of **March, 2007**.



Nancy F. Atlas
United States District Judge



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

WAYNE WELMON, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,	Case No. 06-CV-01283 (JES)
Plaintiff,	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
vs.	
CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,	
Defendants.	
RICHARD J. O'BRIEN, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,	Case No. 06-CV-01532 (JES)
Plaintiff,	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
vs.	
CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,	
Defendants.	

(Additional Captions Set Forth Below)

[PROPOSED] ORDER CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS, APPOINTING LEAD
PLAINTIFF AND APPROVING LEAD PLAINTIFF'S SELECTION
OF LEAD COUNSEL

MARC SABELLA, Individually and on Behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V.,
GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN,
and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,

Defendants.

Case No. 06-CV-01542 (JES)

CLASS ACTION

DONALD CHIERT, On Behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V.,
GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN,
and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,

Defendants.

Case No. 06-CV-01677 (JES)

CLASS ACTION

ROBERT FRIEDMAN, Individually and on
Behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V.,
GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN,
and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,

Defendants.

Case No. 06-CV-01835 (JES)

CLASS ACTION

<p>HAROON I. RASHEED, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-01879 (JES)</p> <p><u>CLASS ACTION</u></p>
<p>CHARLES K. DETENBER, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-01957 (JES)</p> <p>CLASS ACTION</p>
<p>TIM TADDEI, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-01959 (JES)</p> <p>CLASS ACTION</p>

<p>STEVEN STEIN, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p>Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p>Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-01976 (JES)</p> <p><u>CLASS ACTION</u></p>
<p>JEFFREY GOLDSTEIN, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p>Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p>Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-02563 (UA)</p> <p>CLASS ACTION</p>
<p>ROBERT WEIS, Individually and on Behalf of all others similarly situated,</p> <p>Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. N.V., GERALD M. GLENN, ROBERT B. JORDAN, and RICHARD E. GOODRICH,</p> <p>Defendants.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>Case No. 06-CV-02671 (UA)</p> <p>CLASS ACTION</p> <p>X</p>

Upon consideration of the motions and supporting papers filed by the various movants for lead plaintiff in the above-captioned action and for good cause shown,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion of Metzler Investment GmbH and Fortis Investment Management N.V./S.A. is **GRANTED**;
2. The above-captioned actions are **CONSOLIDATED** pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a);
3. Class members Metzler Investment GmbH and Fortis Investment Management N.V./S.A. are hereby **APPOINTED** to serve as Lead Plaintiff in the consolidated action, pursuant to Section 21D(a)(3)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.
4. The law firm of Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP is hereby **APPOINTED** to serve as Lead Counsel for the Class, pursuant to Section 21D(a)(3)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, in the above-captioned action.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 2/10, 2006


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Case 2:05-cv-02681-JAG-MCA Document 54 Filed 03/17/2006 Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

IN RE ABLE LABORATORIES SECURITIES
LITIGATION

:
:
Civil Action No. 05-2681 (JAG)
:
:
:
:
:

ORDER

GREENAWAY, JR., U.S.D.J.

This matter comes before this Court on the motions of the Denver Employees Retirement Plan ("DERP") (Docket Entry No. 14) , Deka International (Ireland) Limited ("Deka") (Docket Entry No. 13), Richard Upham ("Upham") (Docket Entry No. 17), Floyd Webster, Kent Webster, Keith Webster and Helen Darrah (the "Webster Family") (Docket Entry No. 7), the Communications Workers of America Plan for Employees' Pensions and Death Benefits ("CWA") with Daniel Levy (Docket Entry No. 11), Genesee County Employees Retirement System with Julian M. Warren ("Genesee and Warren") (Docket Entry No. 6), Edward Howlette (Docket Entry No. 12), and Charles M. Gillis (Docket Entry No. 16) for appointment as lead plaintiff and appointment of their respective attorney as lead counsel. Following the filing of the individual motions seeking appointment as lead plaintiff, Deka and DERP proposed combining to form the Institutional Investor Group ("IIG"), and the court having reviewed the submissions of the parties, as well as the oral arguments presented on January 23, 2006; and for the reasons set forth in the Court's opinion,

IT IS on this 17th day of March, 2006,

ORDERED that the motions of Deka and DERP are GRANTED, and Deka and DERP

Case 2:05-cv-02681-JAG-MCA Document 54 Filed 03/17/2006 Page 2 of 2

shall combine to form the Institutional Investor Group; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Institutional Investor Group is appointed as the lead plaintiff; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. and Murray, Frank and Sailer LLP are appointed as co-lead counsel; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the motion of the Webster Family is withdrawn; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all other motions for appointment as lead plaintiff are DENIED; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order be served on all parties within seven (7) days of the date of this Order.

S/Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr.
JOSEPH A. GREENAWAY, JR., U.S.D.J.

Case 1:05-cv-00118-WLO Document 23 Filed 03/01/2006 Page 1 of 7

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
Master File Civil Action No. 1:06CV00201

MIRCO INVESTORS, LLC, on behalf of)
itself and all others similarly situated,)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

Civil Action No. 1:05CV00118

INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.)
CHRISTY L. SHAFFER, and THOMAS R.)
STAAB, II,)

Defendants.)

RICHARD & SUSAN GIORGINO,)
individually and on behalf of all others)
similarly situated,)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

Civil Action No. 1:05CV00120

INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.)
CHRISTY L. SHAFFER, and THOMAS R.)
STAAB, II,)

Defendants.)

[Captions continued on next page]

ORDER CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS,
APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFFS AND APPROVING LEAD
PLAINTIFFS' SELECTION OF LEAD COUNSEL AND LIAISON COUNSEL

Case 1:05-cv-00118-WLO Document 23 Filed 03/01/2006 Page 2 of 7

KIAH SAI TAN, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
CHRISTY L. SHAFFER, and THOMAS R.
STAAB, II,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05CV00195

RONALD P. HORLICK, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
CHRISTY L. SHAFFER, and THOMAS R.
STAAB, II,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05CV00227

RANDALL SIMON and ROBERT KEMP,
on behalf of themselves and all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
CHRISTY L. SHAFFER, and THOMAS R.
STAAB, II,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05CV00248

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Having considered the motion of David and Stephanie Cozzarelli, Robert and Carole Swoboda and the FRANKFURT-TRUST Investment-Gesellschaft mbH (collectively, the "Inspire Investors Group") to consolidate actions, to be appointed Lead Plaintiffs and for approval of Lead Plaintiffs' selection of Lead Counsel and Liaison Counsel, and after a hearing before this Court on January 25, 2006,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

I. Order of Consolidation

1. The Inspire Investors Group's motion is granted.
2. The above-captioned actions (the "Actions") and any other cases filed against any of the Defendants arising out of the same nucleus of operative facts as those alleged in these Actions are hereby consolidated into one action (the "Consolidated Action") for all purposes, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 42. This Order (the "Order") shall apply to the Consolidated Action and to each case that relates to the same subject matter that is subsequently filed in this Court or is transferred to this Court and is consolidated with the Consolidated Action.
3. A Master File is established for this proceeding. The Master File shall be Civil Action No. 1:06CV00201. The Clerk shall file all pleadings in the Master File and note such filings on the Master Docket.
4. An original of this Order shall be filed by the Clerk in the Master File.
5. The Clerk shall mail a copy of this Order to counsel of record in the Consolidated Action.

Case 1:05-cv-00118-WLO Document 23 Filed 03/01/2006 Page 4 of 7

6. Every pleading in the Consolidated Action shall have the following caption:

IN RE INSPIRE PHARMACEUTICALS,)
INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION)

Civil Action No. 1:06CV00201

7. When a pleading is intended to be applicable to all actions to which this order is applicable, the words "All Actions" shall appear immediately after the words "This Document Relates To:" in the caption set out above. When a pleading is intended to be applicable only to some, but not all, of such actions, the Court's docket number for each individual action to which the paper is intended to be applicable and the last name of the plaintiff in said action shall appear after the words "This Document Relates To:" in the caption set out above.

8. The Court requests the assistance of counsel in calling to the attention of the Clerk of this Court the filing or transfer of any case that might properly be consolidated as part of the Consolidated Action.

9. When a case that arises out of the same subject matter of the Consolidated Action is hereinafter filed in this Court or transferred from another Court, the Clerk of this Court shall:

- a. File a copy of this Order in the separate file for such action;
- b. Mail a copy of this Order to the attorneys for the plaintiff(s) in the newly-filed or transferred case and to any new defendant(s) in the newly-filed case; and
- c. Make the appropriate entry in the Master Docket for the Consolidated Action.

10. Each new case that arises out of the subject matter of the Consolidated Action, which is filed in this Court or transferred to this Court, shall be consolidated with the Consolidated Action and this Order shall apply thereto, unless a party objects to consolidation,

Case 1:05-cv-00118-WLO Document 23 Filed 03/01/2006 Page 5 of 7

as provided for herein, or any provision of this Order, within ten (10) days after the date upon which a copy of this Order is served on counsel for such party, by filing an application for relief and this Court deems it appropriate to grant such application. Nothing in the forgoing shall be construed as a waiver of Defendants' right to object to consolidation of any subsequently-filed or transferred related action.

11. This Order is entered without prejudice to the rights of any party to apply for severance of any claim or action, for good cause shown.

12. This Order is entered without prejudice to the rights of any party to challenge personal jurisdiction or venue.

13. Defendants are not required to respond to the complaint in any action consolidated into this action, other than the Consolidated Action or a complaint designated as the operative complaint.

II. Appointment of Lead Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel

14. Class members David and Stephanie Cozzarelli, Robert and Carole Swoboda, and FRANKFURT-TRUST Investment-Gesellschaft mbH (collectively, the "Inspire Investors Group") are appointed to serve as Lead Plaintiffs in the above-captioned Consolidated Action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B).

15. Robin Winchester of the law firm of Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP and Christopher S. Polaszek of the law firm of Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP are hereby approved as Co-Lead Counsel for the Class. Co-Lead Counsel shall have the authority to speak for all Plaintiffs and class members in all matters regarding the litigation including, but not limited to, pre-trial proceedings, motion practice, trial and settlement, and shall make all work assignments

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in such a manner as to facilitate the orderly and efficient prosecution of this litigation and to avoid duplicative or unproductive effort. Additionally, Lead Counsel shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. to brief and argue motions;
- b. to initiate and conduct discovery, including, without limitation, coordination of discovery with Defendants' counsel, the preparation of written interrogatories, requests for admissions, and requests for production of documents;
- c. to direct and coordinate the examination of witnesses in depositions;
- d. to act as spokesperson at pretrial conferences;
- e. to call and chair meetings of Plaintiffs' counsel as appropriate or necessary from time to time;
- f. to initiate and conduct any settlement negotiations with counsel for Defendants;
- g. to provide general coordination of the activities of Plaintiffs' counsel and to delegate work responsibilities to selected counsel as may be required in such a manner as to lead to the orderly and efficient prosecution of this litigation and to avoid duplication or unproductive effort;
- h. to consult with and employ experts;
- i. to receive and review periodic time reports of all attorneys on behalf of Plaintiffs, to determine if the time is being spent appropriately and for the benefit of Plaintiffs, and to determine and distribute Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees; and

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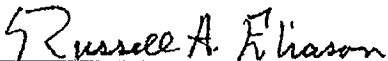
j. to perform such other duties as may be expressly authorized by further order of this Court.

16. No pleadings or other papers shall be filed or discovery propounded, conducted or otherwise undertaken by any Plaintiff except as directed or undertaken by Lead Counsel.

17. J. Anthony Penry of the law firm of Taylor Penry Rash & Riemann, PLLC is hereby approved as Liaison Counsel for the Class.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: March 1, 2006


Honorable Russell A. Eliason, U.S.M.J.

cc: All counsel of record

Case 2:05-cv-00547-CNC Document 34 Filed 02/14/2006 Page 1 of 5

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

RAYMOND KADAGIAN, On Behalf of
Himself and All others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0547

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, INC.,
JEFFREY L. BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES L. ZIEMER,

Defendants.

ALBERT VILLAR,
Individually and On Behalf of
All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0554

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, INC.,
JEFFREY BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES ZIEMER,
JAMES BROSTOWITZ,

Defendants.

ORDER CONSOLIDATING THE RELATED ACTIONS, APPOINTING
LEAD PLAINTIFF AND LEAD PLAINTIFF'S SELECTION OF LEAD
AND LIAISON COUNSEL

[Caption continued on following pages]

Case 2:05-cv-00547-CNC Document 34 Filed 02/14/2006 Page 2 of 5

FRANKLIN HIMES,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0579(LA)

HARLEY-DAVIDSON INC.,
JEFFREY L. BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES M. BROSTOWITZ,
R. JON FLICKINGER,
JOHN A. HEVEY,
RONALD M. HUTCHINSON,
GAIL A. LIONE,
JAMES A. MCCASLIN,
KENNETH SUTTON, JR.,
DONNA F. ZARCONE,
JAMES L. ZIEMER,

Defendants.

PHILIP KATZ, Individually and On Behalf
of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0609

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, INC.,
JEFFREY BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES ZIEMER,
JAMES M. BROSTOWITZ,

Defendants.

JAMES A. ZIOLKOWSKI, On Behalf of
Himself and All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0629

Case 2:05-cv-00547-CNC Document 34 Filed 02/14/2006 Page 3 of 5

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, INC.,
JEFFREY L. BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES M. BROSTOWITZ,
KARL M. EBERLE,
JON R. FLICKINGER,
JOHN A. HEVEY,
RONALD M. HUTCHINSON,
GAIL A. LIONE,
JAMES A MCCASLIN,
W. KENNETH SUTTON, JR.,
DONNA F. ZARCONE,
JAMES L. ZIEMER,

Defendants.

CHARLES R. BOURRET,
On Behalf of Himself and
All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 05-C-0696

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, INC.,
JEFFREY L. BLEUSTEIN,
JAMES M. BROSTOWITZ,
R. JON FLICKINGER,
JOHN A. HEVEY,
RONALD M. HUTCHINSON,
GAIL A. LIONE,
JAMES A. McCASLIN,
W. KENNETH SUTTON, JR.,
DONNA F. ZARCONE,
JAMES L. ZIEMER,

Defendants.

Having considered the Plaintiffs' Joint Stipulation to Consolidate the Actions, Appoint Lead Plaintiff, and to Approve Lead Plaintiff's Selection of Co-Lead Counsel, and good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

Case 2:05-cv-00547-CNC Document 34 Filed 02/14/2006 Page 5 of 5

to which the paper is intended to be applicable and the last name of the first-named plaintiff in said action shall appear immediately after the words "This Document Relates To:" in the caption described above (e.g., "No. 2:04-C-00547," (Kadagian)).

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 14th day of February, 2006.

BY THE COURT

s/ C. N. CLEVERT, JR.

C. N. CLEVERT, JR.

U. S. District Judge

MEMO ENDORSED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
SECURITIES LITIGATION

Master File No. 05-CV-8088 (RMB)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:
ALL ACTIONS

~~PROPOSED~~ **ORDER APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFF AND APPROVING
LEAD PLAINTIFF'S SELECTION OF LEAD COUNSEL** ^{and Other Briefs *}

RMB

Upon consideration of the motions and supporting papers for appointment of Lead Plaintiff and approval of Lead Plaintiff's selection of Lead Counsel in the above-captioned action and for good cause shown,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion of Deka Investment GmbH and Deka International S.A., Luxembourg ("Deka") is **GRANTED**;
2. Deka is hereby **APPOINTED** serve as Lead Plaintiff.
3. The law firm of Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP is hereby **APPOINTED** to serve as Lead Counsel.

SO ORDERED

DATED: 2/6, 2006

2:20 P.M.

RMB

United States District Judge

* No further briefing would be necessary, appropriate or helpful

Case: 8:05-cv-00292-LES-TDT Document #: 55 Date Filed: 12/02/2005 Page 1 of 7

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

IN RE CONAGRA FOODS, INC.)	
SECURITIES LITIGATION)	
DAVID P. BERLIEN, on behalf)	
of himself and all others)	
similarly situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,	)	8:05CV292
)	
v.)	
)	
CONAGRA FOODS, INC., et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
JOSEPH CALVACCA, individually)	
and on behalf of all others)	
similarly situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,	)	8:05CV318
)	
v.)	
)	
CONAGRA FOODS, INC., et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
JAMES M. WOODS, on behalf)	
of himself and all others)	
similarly situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,	)	8:05CV493
)	
v.)	
)	
CONAGRA FOODS, INC., et al.,	)	ORDER
)	
Defendants.)	

This matter is before the Court on the motions of
International Fund Management S.A., Luxembourg (International

Case: 8:05-cv-00292-LES-TDT Document #: 55 Date Filed: 12/02/2005 Page 2 of 7

Fund"), National Elevator Industry Pension Fund ("National Elevator"), and the Sumas Group ("Sumas") for consolidation, appointment as lead plaintiff and approval of selection of lead counsel. All three motions were filed on August 22, 2005. This Court has previously ordered the consolidation of these actions (Filing No. 54 in 8:05CV292; Filing No. 33 in 8:05CV318; Filing No. 51 in 8:05CV493). Now the Court will address the issues of appointing a lead plaintiff and approving the selection of lead counsel.

Selection of Lead Plaintiff

In selecting the co-lead plaintiff, Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 provides typicality and adequacy requirements that must be met for a party to be considered for appointment as lead plaintiff. In addition, the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act ("PSLRA") establishes a rebuttable presumption that "the person or group of persons" which otherwise meets the requirements of Rule 23 that "has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class" shall be appointed lead plaintiff. This presumption may be overcome only upon proof that the presumptively most adequate plaintiff will not fairly and adequately represent the class or is subject to unique defenses. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii).

Three parties have sought to be named as lead plaintiff: International Fund, National Elevator and Sumas. Now

Case: 8:05-cv-00292-LES-TDT Document #: 55 Date Filed: 12/02/2005 Page 3 of 7

International Fund and National Elevator, (collectively the "Institutional Investor Group"), have elected to jointly prosecute this action against ConAgra and ask the Court to name them collectively as the co-lead plaintiff. Thus, the Court must choose between the Institutional Investor Group and Sumas for the position of lead plaintiff.

The PSLRA instructs courts to appoint as lead plaintiff the investor with the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class. In this instance, the Institutional Investor Group clearly has a larger financial interest in the relief sought than does Sumas. The Institutional Investor Group bought 555,897 shares between September 18, 2003, and June 7, 2005 (the "Class Period"), and thereby claims losses totaling \$2,399,802.16. In comparison, Sumas bought 4,300 shares during the Class Period and claims losses of \$12,300.76. Thus, the Institutional Investors Group clearly have the largest financial stake in this litigation. Therefore, a rebuttable presumption exists that the Institutional Investors Group shall be appointed as co-lead plaintiff.

Sumas can rebut this presumption only by proof that the Institutional Investor Group will not fairly and adequately represent the class or is subject to unique defenses. In an effort to rebut this presumption, Sumas asserts that appointment of the Institutional Investors Group as co-lead plaintiff would

Case: 8:05-cv-00292-LES-TDT Document #: 55 Date Filed: 12/02/2005 Page 4 of 7

expose "the class to logistical issues that would not arise if the lead plaintiff is not foreign." This bare assertion is ineffectual. Sumas fails to detail any logistical issues which could arise because one of the members of the Institutional Investors Group is foreign. This objection is found to be without merit.

Next, Sumas asserts that one of the members of Institutional Investors Group failed to clearly set forth all of the information necessary in a sworn, signed certification. It is unclear whether a putative lead plaintiff, such as National Elevator, which did not file a complaint, is subject to this requirement. The plain language of the statute states that the sworn, signed certification is to be "filed with the complaint." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4 (a)(2)(A); *Pirelli Armstrong Tire Corp. Retiree Med. Benefits Trust v. LaBranche & Co.*, 229 F.R.D. 395, 407, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9571, at *36, n.18 (S.D.N.Y. 2004). Here, National Elevator has provided sufficient information to allow the Court to analyze its claimed financial interest. This objection is insufficient to overcome the Institutional Investor Group's rebuttable presumption as co-lead plaintiff as the party with the largest financial interest in the class.

Typicality and Adequacy

Institutional Investors Group fulfills the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23(a). Typicality exists where

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the plaintiff's claims arise from the same series of events and are based upon the same legal theories as the claims of all the class members. It is the generalized nature of the claims asserted which determines whether the class representatives are typical. The typicality requirement does not require that the claims be identical.

The Institutional Investors Group satisfies the typicality requirement because, like all other class members, it: (1) purchased ConAgra securities during the Class Period at allegedly artificially inflated prices; and (2) suffered damages thereby. Thus, its claims are typical of those of other class members because its claims arise out of the same course of events.

Adequacy is evaluated by determining that (1) potential conflict between the proposed co-lead plaintiff and the class members is absent, and (2) the class representative has chosen counsel who is qualified, experienced and able to vigorously conduct the proposed litigation. Here, Institutional Investors Group is an adequate class representative because its interests are clearly aligned with the other class members in vigorously pursuing the claims against the defendants because of the defendants' alleged false statements to the market. There also is no evidence of any antagonism between Institutional Investors Group and other class members. Finally, its proposed counsel is

Case: 8:05-cv-00292-LES-TDT Document #: 55 Date Filed: 12/02/2005 Page 6 of 7

highly qualified, experienced and capable of conducting this complex litigation in a professional manner. Thus, Institutional Investors Group fulfills both the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23(a). Therefore, Institutional Investors Group will be appointed as co-lead plaintiff in this action.

Counsel

Having appointed Institutional Investors Group as co-lead plaintiff, the Court also will approve its selection of counsel. The statute states that the lead plaintiff shall, subject to court approval, select and retain counsel to represent the class it seeks to represent. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). The lead plaintiff has selected Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP ("Lerach Coughlin") and Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP to serve as co-lead counsel for the class and Abrahams, Kaslow & Cassman LLP, as liaison counsel. Lerach Coughlin has experience serving in the role of lead counsel, having been appointed as lead or co-lead counsel in several class actions including *In re Enron Corp., Sec. Litig.*, 206 F.R.D. 427 (S.D. Tex. 2002). Likewise, Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP also is experienced in class action litigation. The Court approves the selections by the lead plaintiff for lead and liaison counsel. Accordingly,

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IT IS ORDERED:

1) National Elevator and International Fund are appointed co-lead plaintiff for the class;

2) Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP and Murray, Frank & Sailer LLP are appointed to serve as co-lead counsel for the class;

3) Abrahams, Kaslow & Cassman LLP is appointed as liaison counsel.

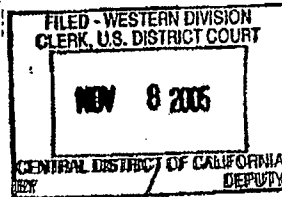
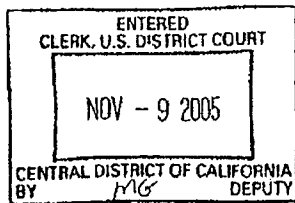
DATED this 2nd day of December, 2005.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Lyle E. Strom

LYLE E. STROM, Senior Judge
United States District Court

Case 2:05-cv-03966-MRP-VBK Document 56 Filed 11/08/2005 Page 1 of 5



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JS-2/JS-3

THIS CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF ENTRY
AS REQUIRED BY FRCP, RULE 77(d).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG,	)	Master File No. CV 05-03966
INC., SECURITIES LITIGATION	)	MRP (VBKx)
)	
This Document Relates To:	)	(Consolidated Cases)
All Actions)	
	)	ORDER APPOINTING NEXTRA
	)	INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT S.G.R.
	)	S.p.A. AS LEAD PLAINTIFF AND
	)	APPOINTING LEAD COUNSEL
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

Putative class member Nextra Investment Management S.G.R. S.p.A. ("Nextra"), on behalf of NIS International Equities Fund, the Nextra Blue Chips Internazionali Fund, the Nextra Bilanciato Internazionale Fund, the Nextra Equilibrio Fund, and the Nextra Azioni Internazionali Fund, has moved, pursuant to Section 27(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21D(a)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, for (1) appointment as Lead Plaintiff for the class of plaintiffs in this case (the "Class"), (2) the approval of Schifffrin & Barroway, LLP as Lead Counsel for Lead Plaintiff and the Class, and (3) the approval of Lim, Ruger & Kim, LLP as Liaison Counsel for Lead Plaintiff and the

56

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1 Class.

2 The Court has read and considered the following documents: (1) the
3 Notice of Motion and Motion to Appoint Nextra as Lead Plaintiff Pursuant
4 to Section 27(a)(3)(B) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section
5 21D(a)(3)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and to Approve Lead
6 Plaintiff's Choice of Counsel, filed by Nextra on August 9, 2005 (the
7 "Motion"); (2) the Memorandum in Opposition to Nextra Investment
8 Management S.G.R. S.p.A.'s Motion to be Appointed Lead Plaintiff and for
9 Approval of its Choice of Counsel, filed by plaintiffs Edward Forstein,
10 Joe Karim, Pamela Kasza and the Carpenters Pension Fund of Baltimore
11 (collectively, the "Dreamworks Group") on September 12, 2005; (3) the
12 Memorandum of Law in Further Support of Nextra Investment Management
13 S.G.R. S.p.A.'s Motion for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and for
14 Approval of Lead Counsel and Opposition to all Competing Motions Seeking
15 Appointment of Lead Plaintiff, filed by Nextra on September 12, 2005;
16 (4) the Reply Memorandum of Law in Further Support of Nextra Investment
17 Management S.G.R. S.p.A.'s Motion for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and
18 Approval of Selection of Lead Counsel, filed by Nextra on September 19,
19 2005; (5) the Reply Memorandum in Further Support of the Dreamworks
20 Group's Joint Stipulation for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and for
21 Approval of its Choice of Counsel, filed by the Dreamworks Group on
22 September 19, 2005; (6) Nextra Investment Management S.G.R. S.p.A.'s
23 Submission Pursuant to this Court's October 19, 2005 Order, filed by
24 Nextra on November 2, 2005; and (7) all Declarations and Memoranda of
25 Points and Authority relating to the Motion. In addition, the Court
26 heard oral argument on the Motion on September 26, 2005.

27 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:
28

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1
2 1. Nextra, having the largest financial interest in this litigation
3 and otherwise satisfying the typicality and adequacy requirements of
4 Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is the most adequate
5 plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I) and Section
6 27(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I) of the Securities Act, and no other movant has
7 offered the proof necessary pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-
8 4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II) and Section 27(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II) of the Securities
9 Act to rebut the statutory presumption in favor of Nextra. Therefore,
10 Nextra is hereby appointed Lead Plaintiff for the Class in this action
11 and any subsequently consolidated or related actions.

12
13 2. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 77z-1(a)(3)(B)(v), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-
14 4(a)(3)(B)(v) and Section 27(a)(3)(B)(v) of the Securities Act, Lead
15 Plaintiff's selection of lead counsel and liaison counsel is hereby
16 approved. The law firm of Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP is appointed as
17 Lead Counsel and the law firm of Lim, Ruger & Kim, LLP is appointed as
18 Liaison Counsel.

19
20 3. Lead Counsel shall have the authority to speak for all
21 plaintiffs and Class members in all matters regarding the litigation
22 including, but not limited to, pre-trial proceedings, motion practice,
23 discovery, and trial and settlement, and shall make all work assignments
24 in such a manner as to facilitate the orderly and efficient prosecution
25 of this litigation and to avoid duplicative or unproductive effort. In
26 connection with the foregoing, Lead Counsel shall have the following
27 responsibilities:

28 a. to brief and argue motions;

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1 b. to initiate and conduct discovery, including, without
2 limitation, coordination of discovery with defendants' counsel, the
3 preparation of written interrogatories, requests for admissions, and
4 requests for production of documents;

5 c. to direct and coordinate the examination of witnesses in
6 depositions;

7 d. to act as spokesperson at pretrial conferences;

8 e. to call and chair meetings of plaintiffs' counsel as
9 appropriate or necessary from time to time;

10 f. to initiate and conduct any settlement negotiations with
11 defendants' counsel;

12 g. to provide general coordination of the activities of
13 plaintiffs' counsel and to delegate work responsibilities to selected
14 counsel as may be required in such a manner as to lead to the orderly
15 and efficient prosecution of this litigation and to avoid duplication or
16 unproductive effort;

17 h. to consult with and employ experts;

18 i. to receive and review periodic time reports of all
19 attorneys on behalf of all plaintiffs to determine if the time is being
20 spent appropriately and for the benefit of plaintiffs; and

21 j. to perform such other duties as may be expressly authorized
22 by further order of this Court.

23
24 4. Lead Counsel shall be responsible for coordinating all
25 activities and appearances on behalf of the Class and for disseminating
26 notices and orders of this Court.

27
28 5. No motion, application or request for discovery shall be

Case 2:05-cv-03966-MRP-VBK Document 56 Filed 11/08/2005 Page 5 of 5

1 served or filed, or other pre-trial proceedings initiated, on behalf of
2 Lead Plaintiff, except through Lead Counsel.

3
4 6. All notices, proposed orders, pleadings, motions,
5 discovery, and memoranda requiring a response in less than 30 days shall
6 be served upon Lead Counsel and defense counsel in electronic format and
7 emailed the day of filing with exhibits to follow by overnight mail
8 service, telecopy, or hand delivery. All other service shall take place
9 by regular mail.

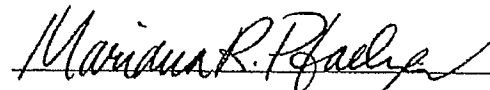
10
11 7. In accordance with the Court's personal procedures, counsel
12 shall submit two (2) courtesy copies of all filings to Chambers.

13
14 8. Defendants' counsel may rely upon all agreements made with
15 Lead Counsel, or other duly authorized representatives of Lead
16 Plaintiff.

17
18 9. This Order shall apply to each case subsequently filed in
19 this Court or transferred to this Court, unless a party objecting to the
20 consolidation of such case or to any other provision of this Order files
21 within ten (10) days after the date upon which a copy of this Order is
22 mailed to counsel for such party, an application for relief from this
23 Order or any provision herein and this Court grants such application.

24
25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 DATED: November 7, 2005



Honorable Mariana R. Pfaelzer

United States District Judge

Case 2:04-cv-04165-ADS-AKT Document 35 Filed 08/09/2005 Page 1 of 17

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TOBY OLSEN, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P.
PUORRO,

Defendants.

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION
AND ORDER**

04-CV-4165 (DRH)(JO)

MORDEKAI SHAPIRO, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P.
PUORRO,

Defendants.

04-CV-4282 (DRH)(JO)

ZACHARY ALAN STARR, on behalf of himself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P.
PUORRO,

Defendants.

04-CV-4375 (DRH)(JO)

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JOSEPH R. RUSSO, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-4464 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P.
PUORRO,

Defendants.

ELI BOTKNECHT, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-4490 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, JOSEPH L. MANCINO,
MICHAEL MANZULLI, MICHAEL P. PUORRO,
and ROBERT WANN

Defendants.

RAMIN SARRAF, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-4577 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, JOSEPH L. MANCINO,
MICHAEL MANZULLI, MICHAEL P. PUORRO,
and ROBERT WANN,

Defendants.

Case 2:04-cv-04165-ADS-AKT Document 35 Filed 08/09/2005 Page 3 of 17

HARLIN BROWN, on behalf of himself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-4845 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P.
PUORRO,

Defendants.

PETER BRANDEL, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-5047 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, JOSEPH L. MANCINO,
MICHAEL MANZULLI, MICHAEL P. PUORRO,
and ROBERT WANN,

Defendants.

ROBERT LOWINGER, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-5065 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, ROBERT WANN,
MICHAEL F. MANZULLI, DONALD M. BLAKE,
ANTHONY E. BURKE, DOMINICK CIAMPA,
ROBERT S. FARRELL, WILLIAM C.
FREDERICK, MAX L. KUPFERBERG,
HOWARD C. MILLER, JAMES J. DONOVAN,
and JOHN A. PILESKI,

Defendants.

Case 2:04-cv-04165-ADS-AKT Document 35 Filed 08/09/2005 Page 4 of 17

RICHARD A. STRAUSS, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

04-CV-5101 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, and MICHAEL P. PUORRO,

Defendants.

AL TAWIL and ESTATE OF FARAH MAHLAB,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

04-CV-5128 (DRH)(JO)

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.,
JOSEPH R. FICALORA, ROBERT WANN,
MICHAEL F. MANZULLI, DONALD M. BLAKE,
ANTHONY E. BURKE, DOMINICK CIAMPA,
ROBERT S. FARRELL, WILLIAM C.
FREDERICK, MAX L. KUPFERBERG,
HOWARD C. MILLER, JAMES J. DONOVAN,
and JOHN A. PILESKI,

Defendants.

HURLEY, District Judge:

Presently before the Court are the motions by: (1) Metzler Investment GmbH, for account of its funds MI-Fonds 208 and MI-Fonds 705 ("Metzler Investment") and Bernard Drucker (collectively, the "NYCB Group"); (2) Carlos J. Burbano, Anna C. Burbano, Henry E. Dubuy, Anthony J. Izzo, Hans Kalb, Dong K. Lee, Joseph Tobin, and Anthony Whitehead (collectively, the "Lee Group"); (3) Dr. Max Schnapp ("Dr. Schnapp"); (4) James T. Stevens and

Case 2:04-cv-04165-ADS-AKT Document 35 Filed 08/09/2005 Page 5 of 17

John W. Feil (collectively, the "Stevens Group"); (5) Vera Dalia, PhD, Anthony Curcio, and Genevieve DeCarlo (collectively, the "Dalia Group"); and (6) Philip A. Stewart, Joyce Stewart, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 (the "Stewart Group") for an Order consolidating the above-referenced actions,¹ appointing lead plaintiff, and approving the selection of lead counsel. For the reasons stated below, the motion of the NYCB Group is granted in its entirety and the remaining motions are granted in part and denied in part.

BACKGROUND

The above-captioned actions were commenced as purported securities class actions on behalf of investors who purchased or acquired stock of New York Community Bancorp, Inc. ("NYCB") between June 27, 2003 and May 9, 2004 (the "Class Period"). The actions seek to recover damages suffered by members of the class as a result of Defendants' alleged violations of federal securities law. (Compl. ¶ 1.)² Specifically, the Complaint alleges that on the first day of the class period, NYCB announced that it had signed a definitive agreement with Roslyn Bancorp, Inc. ("Roslyn"), valued at \$1.579 billion, whereby Roslyn would merge into NYCB and Roslyn shareholders would receive 0.75 shares of NYCB stock in exchange for each share of Roslyn stock. (*Id.* ¶ 24.) The Complaint further alleges that in connection with the merger, Defendants failed to disclose and misrepresented material adverse

¹ At the time of the filing of the parties' motions, there were eight related cases pending before the Court. Since that time, three additional related cases have been filed, to wit, *Lowinger v. New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, 04 CV 5065, *Strauss v. New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, 04 CV 5101, and *Tawil v. New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, 04 CV 5128. These three related cases will be considered in the Court's decision.

² All citations to Complaint refer to the Complaint filed in *Olsen v. New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, 04 CV 4165, the first action filed in this Court.

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facts, which were known to Defendants or recklessly disregarded by them, which caused NYCB's stock to be artificially inflated. (*See id.* ¶¶ 25-57.)

The first action, *Olsen v. New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, 04 CV 4165, was filed on September 24, 2004. That same day, plaintiffs' counsel published notice of the pendency of the action over the *PR News Wire*. The notice advised members of the proposed class of their right to move before this Court to serve as lead plaintiff(s) on or before November 23, 2004. (*See, e.g.*, Decl. of Aaron Brody, dated Nov. 23, 2004, Ex. A.)

Presently pending in the Eastern District of New York are eleven separate related securities fraud class actions. Plaintiffs in six of these actions have filed motions to consolidate and for appointment as lead plaintiff. Defendants take no position with regard to the respective motions.

DISCUSSION

I. The Motions to Consolidate are Granted

Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "PSLRA"), the Court must decide any motion to consolidate prior to deciding a motion for appointment of lead plaintiff in a proposed securities class action. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(ii). Rule 42 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that "[w]hen actions involving a common question of law or fact are pending before the court, it may order a joint hearing or trial of any or all the matters in issue in the actions; [and] it may order all the actions consolidated." Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a).

Here, the factual allegations in each of the above-referenced actions are virtually identical and, as a result, the same discovery will be relevant to all of the actions. Several of the

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actions, however, have alleged slightly different class periods and name different individual defendants. Moreover, some of the actions assert claims by former Roslyn shareholders pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act"), some assert claims by persons who purchased NYCB stock on the open market pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), and some assert claims pursuant to both statutes. None of these minor differences, however, which can be resolved when the appointed lead plaintiff files a consolidated complaint, detracts from the overwhelming factual and legal similarities among the cases. *See, e.g., Dolan v. Axis Capital Holdings Ltd.*, Nos. 04 Civ. 8564, 04 Civ. 8810, 2005 WL 883008, at * 2 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 13, 2005) (consolidating cases where one case asserted claims against additional defendant and claims "overlapp[ed]"); *In re Olsten Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 3 F. Supp. 2d 286, 292-93 (E.D.N.Y. 1998) (consolidating cases alleging different class periods and slightly different facts; "the facts and legal issues need not be identical to warrant consolidation"), *opinion adhered to on reconsideration*, 181 F.R.D. 218 (E.D.N.Y. 1998). Moreover, it is apparent that no party will suffer prejudice from consolidation, a fact confirmed by the complete absence of any opposition thereto. Finally, it is equally apparent that consolidation would significantly enhance judicial economy. There is, in short, nothing to be gained by requiring this matter to proceed as eleven separate cases. Accordingly, the actions involve "common issues of law and fact" and are hereby consolidated pursuant to Rule 42(a).

II. Motions for Appointment of Lead Plaintiff

A. Procedure under the PSLRA

The PSLRA sets forth the procedure governing the appointment of a lead plaintiff in securities class actions. As an initial matter, the plaintiff who files the first action must

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publish notice to the class within twenty (20) days of filing the action, informing class members of their right to file a motion for appointment as lead plaintiff. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(I). Here, notice of the first action was published on September 24, 2004.

Next, the PSLRA provides that within ninety (90) days after publication of notice, the Court shall consider any motion made by a purported class member and shall appoint as lead plaintiff the “member or members of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B).

There is a rebuttable presumption that the “most adequate plaintiff” is

the person or group of persons that –

- (aa) has either filed the complaint or made a motion in response to [the statutorily mandated] notice . . . ;
- (bb) in the determination of the court, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class; and
- (cc) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Id. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). This presumption “may be rebutted only upon proof by a member of the purported plaintiff class that the presumptively most adequate plaintiff-(aa) will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; or (bb) is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

B. Application to the Present Cases

Plaintiffs in six of the above-referenced cases filed competing motions for appointment as lead plaintiff. Upon review of the competing motions, the Stevens Group subsequently withdrew its application. The Dalia and Stewart Groups failed to file any opposition papers in response to the other applicants’ motions and, thus, have presumably

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withdrawn their applications as well.³ Thus, the only three groups under consideration are the NYCB Group, the Lee Group, and Dr. Schnapp.

All three groups have satisfied the first criterion necessary for a finding that it is the most adequate plaintiff in that each has timely filed a motion in response to the notice of the first filed action. *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(aa). The Court must then determine which group holds the largest financial interest in the relief sought. *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb).

All three groups have submitted affidavits along with their papers in support of their respective claims of financial losses. The NYCB Group purchased or otherwise acquired 106,000 shares of NYCB stock, incurring an estimated loss of \$905,647.65. (*See* Decl. of Peter E. Seidman, dated Nov. 23, 2004, Exs. C and D.) The Lee Group purchased 57,116 shares of NYCB stock during the class period and suffered estimated losses of \$451,547. (*See* Decl. of Aaron L. Brody, dated Nov. 23, 2004, Exs. B and C.) Finally, Dr. Schnapp acquired 59,432 shares of NYCB through the merger of NYCB and Roslyn and 780 shares through dividend reinvestment for a total estimated loss of \$605,520.⁴ (*See* Decl. of William Berbarduci, dated Nov. 23, 2004, Ex. B; Dr. Schnapp Reply Mem. at 2 n.3.) Thus, at first glance, the NYCB Group appears to have sustained the largest financial loss. Both Dr. Schnapp and the Lee Group advance several arguments, however, as to why the NYCB Group should be disqualified from

³ The Dalia Group claimed a financial loss of \$357,715.40 and the Stewart Group estimated its loss at \$450,971.13. As will be discussed *infra*, because the Court finds that the NYCB Group, with an estimated loss of \$905,647.65, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought, and satisfies the other requirements under the PSLRA, the Court finds that the NYCB Group is the most adequate plaintiff.

⁴ Dr. Schnapp initially asserted a loss of \$365,129, but later changed his loss based upon a revised calculation to allegedly reflect the methods used by the other movants. (Dr. Schnapp Mem. in Further Supp. at 1 n.1.)

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lead plaintiff contention. The Court will address each one in turn.

1. The Validity of the NYCB Group

Dr. Schnapp argues that the NYCB Group used an improper calculation in arriving at its estimated loss. Dr. Schnapp's argument, however, is based on his assertion that the NYCB Group is improperly comprised of two movants and that viewing each movant's loss separately, Dr. Schnapp's loss is greater than each individual movant. At this juncture, the Court need not resolve whether the approach used by the NYCB Group in estimating its financial loss is appropriate because as discussed below, the Court finds that the NYCB Group's inclusion of two distinct members is proper. Thus, under either method for calculating loss, the NYCB's loss, taken in the aggregate, is substantially greater than that of Dr. Schnapp.⁵

Dr. Schnapp argues that the NYCB Group is "nothing more than an amalgamation of unaffiliated and unrelated class members thrown together to try to artificially create the movant with the 'largest financial interest.'" (Dr. Schnapp Reply Mem. at 5.) The NYCB Group is comprised of an institutional movant, to wit, Metzler Investment, and an individual movant, to wit, Bernard Drucker.

The PSLRA states that the court "must appoint as lead plaintiff the *member or members* of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be most capable of

⁵ The NYCB Group asserts its financial loss as totaling \$905,647.65, based upon the "mean trading price" of its stock during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the information correcting the misstatement or omission was disseminated to the market. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(e)(1). Dr. Schnapp contends that the NYCB Group erroneously performed this calculation based upon 90 *calendar* days, as opposed to 90 *trading* days, the latter of which excludes weekends and legal holidays. Thus, under Dr. Schnapp's method, the NYCB Group's loss, viewed in the aggregate, would actually be higher, at \$1,010,580. (See Dr. Schnapp's Mem. in Further Supp. at 4.)

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adequately representing the interests of class members,” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B) (emphasis added), but does not specify whether the members must be related in some fashion in order to qualify as an appropriate lead plaintiff group. As recently articulated by Judge Scheindlin:

Courts are divided on the issue. Two cases in the Southern District of New York forcefully assert that unrelated investors may not band together for the purpose of achieving lead plaintiff status, reasoning that investors with no prior relationship will not be as effective at controlling class counsel as would a single institutional entity. Other cases, comprising the majority view, hold that unrelated investors may aggregate under certain circumstances. One court even goes so far as to argue that “a greater number of plaintiffs allows them, as a group, to wield more control over counsel.” For the most part, in the absence of explicit limits the lead plaintiff decision must be made on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the unique circumstances of each case. Generally, a lead plaintiff group should be held to a reasonable number, so that the group does not become too unwieldy. This logic eschews a hard-and-fast rule, instead adopting a rule of reason along with the general presumption that unrelated groups with more than five members are too large to work effectively.

In re eSpeed, Inc. Sec. Litig., No. 05 Civ 2091, 2005 WL 1653933, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. July 13, 2005) (citations omitted).

Many courts have interpreted the PSLRA to favor institutional investors serving as lead plaintiff. *See id.* (“An institutional investor with substantial losses functioning as lead plaintiff is less likely to cause a flurry of otherwise pointless activity in the form of disputes within the lead plaintiff group.”) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted) (collecting cases); *Dolan*, 2005 WL 883008, at *3 (stating that PSLRA was designed to encourage institutional investors which have “significant holdings in issuers [and] whose interest are more strongly aligned with the class of shareholders”). Here, given the PSLRA’s preference for institutional investors, and given that the NYCB Group consists of a manageable number of

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members, the Court finds that the two member NYCB Group is a valid group under the PSLRA. *See In re Star Gas Sec. Litig.*, No. 04 Civ. 1766, 2005 WL 818617, at *5 (D. Conn. Apr. 8, 2005) (“The majority of courts considering the issue have taken an intermediate position, allowing a group of unrelated investors to serve as lead plaintiffs when it would be most beneficial to the class under the circumstances of a given case.”); *Pirelli Armstrong Tire Corp. v. LaBranche & Co.*, No. 03 Civ. 8264, 2004 WL 1179311, at *22 (S.D.N.Y. May 27, 2004) (noting that a co-lead plaintiff structure will help to ensure that adequate resources and experience are available to the prospective class in the prosecution of the class action); *Laborers Local 1298 Pension Fund v. Campbell Soup Co.*, No. 00 Civ. 152, 2000 WL 486956, at *3 (D. N.J. Apr. 24, 2000) (appointing three separate movants as co-lead plaintiffs and anticipating that each party would bring a unique perspective to the litigation); *In re Oxford Health Plans, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 182 F.R.D. 42, 45-46 (S.D.N.Y. 1998) (naming group of three unrelated individual investors as co-lead plaintiff with an institutional investor). Thus, viewing the NYCB Group’s loss in the aggregate, it has the largest financial interest.

2. *The NYCB Group has Standing to Sue*

Dr. Schnapp and the Lee Group contend that Metzler Investment, the institutional member of the NYCB Group, lacks standing to assert violations of the Exchange Act because it is merely an investment manager which did not purchase any NYCB stock for its own account but rather managed the investments of its clients’ assets. “Generally, a client’s grant of authority to an investment manager to purchase stock on his or her behalf does not also confer authority to commence suit on his or her behalf.” *Weinberg v. Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 248, 255 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (citing *Smith v. Suprema Specialties*, 206 F. Supp. 2d 627,

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634-35 (D. N.J. 2002)). “However, when the investment advisor is also the attorney-in-fact for its clients with unrestricted decision making authority, the investment advisor is considered the ‘purchaser’ under the federal securities laws with standing to sue in its own name.” *Id.*; see also *In re eSpeed, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2005 WL 1653933, at *1 (“In order for an investment advisor to attain standing on behalf of investors[,] the transactions in question must have been executed as if by a single person. Moreover, the advisor must be the attorney in fact for his clients, and he must be granted both unrestricted decision-making authority and the specific right to recover on behalf of his clients.”) (citations omitted).

Here, Metzler Investment has proffered the signed declaration of Marlies Pauly, an authorized signatory of Metzler Investment, stating that Metzler Investment is a fund management company that controls, manages, and is attorney-in-fact for each of its funds. (Third Decl. of Peter E. Seidman, dated Dec. 15, 2004, Ex. B. ¶ 2.) The declaration further avers that:

Metzler [Investment] is also contractually authorized to undertake and act on behalf of these funds in any legal action on their behalf, including serving as lead plaintiff in this action. These funds’ respective shareholders have each entered into a contract with Metzler [Investment] explicitly authorizing Metzler [Investment] to control all investments and to commence litigation on behalf of the funds. Accordingly, Metzler [Investment] has full and complete authority and discretion to purchase and sell securities for each of these funds, and to institute legal action on their behalf, including serving as lead plaintiff in this action.

(*Id.* ¶ 4.) Metzler Investment also submits a portion of the contracts it entered into with each of the shareholders of the funds, which provides that Metzler Investment “is authorized to purchase assets with the money invested by the shareholders, to sell those assets and to otherwise invest the proceeds; it is further authorized to take all legal actions that arise from the management of

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the assets.” (*Id.* Ex. D and attachments thereto.) Based on this proffer, the Court finds that Metzler Investment has demonstrated that it has complete investment authority over its trades and is agent and attorney-in-fact with full power and authority to act in connection with its investments. Thus, the Court finds that Metzler Investment does have standing to prosecute its Exchange Act claims asserted here.

3. *Applying the Requirements of Rule 23*

Having established that the NYCB Group has the greatest financial loss, and is not otherwise disqualified from serving as lead plaintiff, the next question is whether the NYCB Group “otherwise meets the requirements of Rule 23(a).” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(cc). Rule 23(a) sets forth four prerequisites to be considered in evaluating the propriety of class certification, to wit, numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a). Only the typicality and adequacy criteria are relevant to the selection of lead plaintiff. *See Dolan*, 2005 WL 883008, at *4; *In re eSpeed, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2005 WL 1653933, at *5.

Typicality is satisfied where the claims arise from the same course of events and each class member makes similar legal arguments to prove the defendant’s liability. *See, e.g., Robinson v. Metro-North Commuter R.R. Co.*, 267 F.3d 147, 155 (2d Cir. 2001). The NYCB Group easily meets this requirement because the NYCB Group, like the other purported class members in this action, alleges that it purchased or otherwise acquired NYCB stock during the class period and was injured by false and misleading representations made by defendants in violation of both the Exchange Act and the Securities Act. Because the NYCB Group consists of both a movant who acquired his shares of NYCB stock through NYCB’s merger with Roslyn and a movant who acquired its shares through the open market, all available legal theories are

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represented. Although the Stevens Group suggests that the Court appoint two separate lead plaintiffs with separate counsel – one for the claims arising out of the Securities Act and one for the claims arising out of the Exchange Act⁶– the Court declines to do so. This argument is based on the premise that the two movants who make up the NYCB Group do not *individually* possess the greatest financial loss. As discussed previously, however, the Court has already found the NYCB Group to be a valid group which may be viewed in the aggregate. Moreover, as the parties concede, there is no precedent under which the Court is required to appoint separate lead plaintiffs for different claims, *cf. Hevesi v. Citigroup Inc.*, 366 F.3d 70, 82 (2d Cir. 2004) (stating that the PSLRA does not require district to choose lead plaintiff with standing to sue on every available cause of action), and there has been no showing that the NYCB Group, the presumptive lead plaintiff, cannot vigorously pursue both claims. The NYCB Group therefore meets the Rule 23 typicality requirement for purposes of the lead plaintiff inquiry.

The NYCB Group also meets the Rule 23 requirement that the lead plaintiff have the capacity to adequately represent the class. The adequacy requirement is satisfied where “(1) class counsel is qualified, experienced, and generally able to conduct the litigation; (2) the class members’ interests are not antagonistic to one another; and (3) the class has a sufficient interest in the outcome of the case to ensure vigorous advocacy.” *See, e.g., In re eSpeed, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2005 WL 1653933, at *5 (citing *In re Initial Public Offering Sec. Litig.*, 214 F.R.D. 117, 121 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) (considering adequacy in the lead plaintiff appointment context)). The NYCB Group’s counsel, Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP, has extensive experience litigating securities class actions and, therefore, has the ability to conduct the litigation effectively.

⁶ (See Stevens and Feil Response at 2-4; Dr. Schnapp Reply at 6-8.)

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Moreover, there is no evidence to suggest that the members of the NYCB Group have interests that are antagonistic to each other or to other members of the putative class. Finally, the NYCB Group has already displayed a willingness to vigorously pursue its claims and has enough of an interest in the outcome of the litigation to ensure that it will continue to do so. Thus, the NYCB Group is an adequate class representative.

Thus, because the NYCB Group has satisfied the three prong test of the PSLRA, to wit, the NYCB Group has submitted a timely motion requesting to be named lead plaintiff, it is the entity with the greatest financial interest in the relief sought by the class, and otherwise meets the requirements of Rule 23(a), the NYCB Group is presumptively the most adequate plaintiff. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). To rebut this presumption, as noted previously, the other movants must offer proof that the NYCB plaintiffs “will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; or [are] subject to unique defenses that render [them] incapable of adequately representing the class.” *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II). They have failed to do so. Accordingly, the Court appoints the NYCB Group as lead plaintiff.

III. Motions for Selection of Lead Counsel

The NYCB Group further moves to designate Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP as lead counsel. The PSLRA provides that the “most adequate plaintiff shall, subject to the approval of the court, select and retain counsel.” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). Resumes submitted by the firm indicate that it has successfully prosecuted numerous securities fraud class actions and is otherwise well qualified and free of conflicts. Accordingly, the Court appoints Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP as lead counsel.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the motion by the NYCB Group is granted in its entirety. The Court appoints the NYCB Group as lead plaintiff and Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP as lead counsel. The other applicants' motions are granted to the extent they seek consolidation but are otherwise denied. The NYCB Group shall serve and file a consolidated complaint within thirty (30) days of this Order.

The actions are hereby consolidated under the caption "In re New York Community Bancorp, Inc. Securities Litigation." All relevant documents and submissions shall be maintained as one file under case number 04 CV 4165. The Clerk of the Court is hereby directed to close the other ten actions.

SO ORDERED.

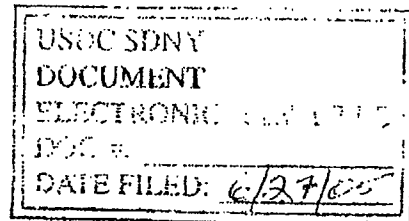
Central Islip, N.Y.
August 9, 2005

/s

Denis R. Hurley,
United States District Judge

BUCKWOLD, S.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



JOHNNY COX, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,
Plaintiff,

v.

DELPHI CORPORATION (F/K/A DELPHI
AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS), J.T.
BATTENBERG, III, ALAN S. DAWES,
PAUL R. FREE, and JOHN SHEEHAN,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-2637 (NRB)

THOMAS MORRISON, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated,
Plaintiff,

v.

DELPHI CORPORATION, J.T.
BATTENBERG, III, RODNEY O=NEAL,
ALAN S. DAWES, and JOHN G.
BLAHNIK,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-2656 (NRB)

[Captions continued on next page]

STIPULATION AND ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF LEAD
PLAINTIFFS AND APPROVAL OF LEAD PLAINTIFFS' SELECTION OF LEAD
COUNSEL

ROBERT HILLMAN, on behalf of himself)
and all others similarly situated,)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

DELPHI CORPORATION, J.T.)
BATTENBERG, III, ALAN S. DAWES,)
PAUL R. FREE, and JOHN D. SHEEHAN,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-2732 (NRB)

CORINNE C. OREM, on behalf of herself)
and all others similarly situated.)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

DELPHI CORPORATION, J.T.)
BATTENBERG, III, RODNEY O=NEAL,)
ALAN S. DAWES, and JOHN G.)
BLAHNIK,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-2854 (NRB)

VANESSA JONES, individually and on)
behalf of all others similarly situated,)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

DELPHI CORPORATION, J.T.)
BATTENBERG, III, RODNEY O=NEAL,)
ALAN S. DAWES, and JOHN G.)
BLAHNIK,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-3323 (BSJ)

[Captions continued on next page]

IRA GAINES, on behalf of himself and all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DELPHI CORPORATION, J.T.
BATTENBERG, III, ALAN S. DAWES,
PAUL R. FREE, and JOHN D. SHEEHAN,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-3439 (BSJ)

POLICEMEN'S ANNUITY & BENEFIT
FUND OF CHICAGO, on behalf of itself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DELPHI CORPORATION, JOHN D.
SHEEHAN, J.T. BATTENBERG, III,
ALAN S. DAWES, and PAUL R. FREE,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:05-CV-4476 (UA)

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2005, the first captioned class action complaint (*Cox v. Delphi Corp. (f/k/a Delphi Automotive Systems, LLC), et al.*, No. 1:05-CV-2637 (NRB)) alleging violations of federal securities laws was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York;

WHEREAS, twelve related complaints were subsequently filed. Six of those complaints were filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (*Morrison v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 1:05-CV-2656 (NRB); *Hillman v. Delphi Corp., et al.* No. 1:05-CV-2732 (NRB); *Orem v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 1:05-2854 (NRB); *Jones v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 1:05-CV-3323 (BSJ); *Gaines v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 1:05-CV-3439 (BSJ); and *Policemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 1:05-CV-4476 (UA)) and six of those complaints were filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (*Priest v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 05-CV-70907-DPH-VMM; *City of Delray Beach Police and Firefighters Ret. Sys. v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 05-CV-70945-DPH-VMM; *Karlin v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 05-CV-70952-DPH-VMM; *Bennett v. Delphi Corp. (f/k/a Delphi Automotive Systems), et al.*, No. 05-CV-71157-VAR-MKM; *Raphael v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 05-CV-71238-DPH-VMM; and *Police and Fire Ret. Sys. of the City of Detroit v. Delphi Corp., et al.*, No. 05-CV-60102-JCO-WC.) (All thirteen of the above actions shall be referred to collectively as the "Actions");

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2005, pursuant to Section 21D(a)(3)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A), notice was published which informed class members of their right to seek appointment as lead plaintiff;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma ("OTRS"), Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System ("OLERS"), Public

Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi ("Mississippi PERS"), and San Diego City Employees' Retirement System ("SDCERS") (collectively, the "Public Pension Fund Group") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP and Nix, Patterson & Roach, J.L.P. as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members Nextra Investment Management S.G.R. S.p.A. on behalf of the NIS US Equities Fund, the Nextra Azioni Beni Di Consumo Fund, the Nextra Azioni Nord America Fund, the Primavera Trading Azioni Nord America Fund, and the Nextra Azioni Nord America Dinamico Fund (collectively, "Nextra") and Raiffeisen Kapitalanlage-Gesellschaft m.b.H. ("Raiffeisen") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class member Stichting Pensioenfonds ABP ("ABP") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Grant & Eisenhofer, P.A. as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class member Secure Trading Group, Inc. ("STG") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Entwistle & Cappucci, LLP as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members Illinois State Board of Investment ("ISBI") and State Universities Retirement System of Illinois ("SURS") (collectively, the "Illinois Funds") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt &

Pucillo as lead counsel;¹

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Industry Pension Fund, National Roofing Industry Pension Fund, and California Ironworkers Field Trust Funds (collectively, the "Institutional Funds") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins, LLP as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members Metzler GmbH, Activest Investmentgesellschaft mbH, and Amalgamated Bank as Trustee of the Longview Collective Investment, Longview Quantitative FD-Prude and Longview VEBA 500 Funds (collectively, the "Institutional Investor Group") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman, LLP as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class member Police and Fire Retirement System of the City of Detroit ("Detroit") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Kirby McInerney & Squire, LLP as lead counsel;²

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class member Government Employees' Retirement System of the Virgin Islands timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Barrack Rodos & Bacine as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class member Policemen's Annuity & Benefit

¹ Subsequently, on May 17, 2005, SURS withdrew its application for appointment as lead plaintiff.

² Subsequently, on May 23, 2005, Detroit withdrew its application for appointment as lead plaintiff.

Fund of Chicago timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C. as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2005, putative class members Louisiana District Attorneys' Retirement System ("LADARS"), Richard Cameron ("Cameron"), Bruce Chernofsky and Samuel & Harriet Chernofsky (the "Chernofsky Family") timely moved this Court, pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, for appointment as lead plaintiff and for approval of Pomerantz Haudeck Block Grossman & Gross, LLP as lead counsel;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act ("PSLRA"), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii), the Court is to presume that the "most adequate plaintiff" is the person or group of persons who, "in the determination of the court has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class;"

WHEREAS, pursuant to the PSLRA, the lead plaintiff is vested with authority to select and retain lead counsel, subject to Court approval;

WHEREAS, OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen independently determined that it would be in the best interests of the Class to prosecute the Actions jointly as Lead Plaintiffs, with their respective law firms, Nix, Patterson & Roach, L.L.P., Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, Grant & Eisenhofer, P.A., and Schiffin & Barroway, LLP, serving as Lead Counsel for the Class;

WHEREAS, OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen, whether taken independently of one another or together, have the largest loss of all other persons who filed motions seeking appointment as lead plaintiff;

WHEREAS, counsel for STG, the Police and Fire Retirement System of the City of Detroit, the Government Employees' Retirement System of the Virgin Islands, the Policemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, LADARS, Cameron and the Chernofsky Family have represented to counsel for OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen that they either support or do not oppose the appointment of OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen as Lead Plaintiffs for the Class and their choice of Lead Counsel for the Class; and

WHEREAS, counsel for the ISBI have represented to counsel for OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen that ISBI does not take any position on this matter.

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen through their undersigned counsel as follows:

1. OTRS, Mississippi PERS, ABP and Raiffeisen shall, subject to the approval of the Court, be appointed Lead Plaintiffs pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B) in the Actions and all related actions consolidated herewith; and
2. Lead Plaintiffs' selection of the law firms of Nix, Patterson & Roach, L.L.P., Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, Grant & Eisenhofer, P.A., and Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP shall, subject to the approval of the Court, be approved as Lead Counsel for the Class pursuant to Section 21(D)(a)(3)(B)(v) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v).

Respectfully submitted,

NIX, PATTERSON & ROACH, L.L.P.

Dated: May 23, 2005

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**BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER
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Dated: May 23, 2005

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Dated: May 23, 2005

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Counsel for ABP and Proposed Lead Counsel

SCHIFFRIN & BARROWAY, LLP

Dated: May 23, 2005

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*Counsel for Raiffeisen and
Proposed Lead Counsel*

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Dated: June 27, 2005

Naomi Reice Buchwald
The Honorable Naomi Reice Buchwald, U.S.D.J.

per

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United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE SIPEX CORPORATION
SECURITIES LITIGATION

No. C 05-00392 WHA

AND CONSOLIDATED CASES

ORDER APPOINTING LEAD
PLAINTIFFS GLOBIS CAPITAL
PARTNERS LP AND SHAYE
HIRSCH

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PSLRA), Pub. L. No. 104-67, 109 Stat. 737 (codified as additions and amendments to 15 U.S.C. 77-78 and 18 U.S.C. 1964), this order appoints Globis Capital Partners LP and Shaye Hirsch as the lead plaintiffs for two cases previously consolidated as the above-named action. The consolidated actions involve securities fraud. This order sets forth the criteria for selection and approval of lead plaintiff and also sets forth the procedure that will be used for the selection and approval of class counsel.

FACTS

These consolidated class actions arise from the alleged financial misrepresentation by Sipex Corporation. Sipex designs, manufactures and markets semiconductors that are used by original equipment manufacturers in the computing, consumer electronics, communications and networking infrastructure markets (Jacobson Compl. ¶ 2). During the alleged class period, Sipex reported positive results in its SEC filings (*id.* ¶ 3).¹ In publically disseminated press

¹ The alleged class period is April 10, 2003, through and including January 20, 2005.

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1 releases, the company attributed the results to increased semiconductor sales and cost savings
 2 resulting from restructuring its operations (*ibid*). On January 20, 2005, after the market closed,
 3 Sipex issued a press release announcing that it might need to restate its reported financial
 4 statements for fiscal year 2003 and for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2004 due to possible
 5 "improper recognition of revenue" and that the company's audit committee and board of
 6 directors had commenced an internal investigation of the matter (*id.* ¶ 4). As a result of the
 7 investigation, Sipex stated that it would not be able to file its 2004 annual report with the SEC
 8 on time (*ibid.*). In reaction to this news, the price of Sipex common stock dropped 23% from its
 9 previous trading day's closing price (*ibid*).

10 Four class actions were filed.² Plaintiffs named Sipex corporation and its officers,
 11 Douglas M. McBurnie, Walid Maghribi, Phillip Kagel and Clyde Ray Wallin as defendants.
 12 The complaints alleged that defendants violated Section 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities
 13 Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5, promulgated thereunder, by making allegedly false and
 14 misleading statements, causing plaintiffs to purchase Sipex securities at artificially inflated
 15 prices.

16 Initially, there were several competing movants for the position of lead plaintiff:
 17 Walter Bednarszyk and James T. Collier, Roy and Margaret Gentles, the "Young Group" that
 18 included six individuals and the "Globis Group" that included Globis Capital Partner LP and
 19 Shaye Hirsch. Before the hearing on the appointment of lead plaintiff, the Court requested each
 20 lead plaintiff to complete a questionnaire. The Court's questionnaire alerted movants that it
 21 would evaluate the qualifications of single investors, not groups, as lead plaintiffs. The Court's
 22 questions focused on the qualifications of the lead plaintiff, their experience in managing
 23 litigation, potential conflicts and transactions related to the instant securities case. The Court
 24 received back two questionnaires, one from Paul Packer, on behalf of Globis Capital Partners
 25
 26

27 ² Initially the following five related actions were filed: *Barbara Keller v. Sipex*, C05-00331 WHA,
 28 *Coil Partners, LLC v. Sipex*, C05-00392 WHA, *Levy v. Sipex*, C05-00505 WHA and *Alfred H. Jacobson v.*
Sipex, C05-00712 WHA. Eventually, all the actions voluntarily dismissed except for *Coil Partners, LLC v.*
Sipex and *Alfred H. Jacobson v. Sipex*. They were consolidated into this action.

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1 LP, and one from Shaye Hirsch. None of the other movants returned questionnaires.

2 Subsequently, the Gentiles moved for withdrawal of appointment as lead plaintiff.

3 The Court held a hearing on the appointment of lead plaintiff on May 12, 2005. The
4 only candidates present were Mr. Packer, on behalf of Globis, and Mr. Hirsch. The Court
5 questioned both plaintiffs on their qualifications, experience and financial loss.

6 Mr. Packer is the managing member of Globis Capital Partners LP, a hedge fund that
7 deals with small and mid-cap-value companies. He has previous experience as a lead-plaintiff.
8 Before the alleged class period he held 520,570 shares of Sipex stock. During the alleged class
9 period he purchased 1,110,086 shares of stock and sold 1,201,229 shares of stock. Despite
10 being a net seller during the alleged class period, Globis' alleged estimated loss is \$725,857, a
11 point discussed below. Mr. Hirsch is an individual investor. During the alleged class period he
12 bought \$7,000 shares. He estimates his total loss to be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Globis
13 and Mr. Hirsch asked the Court to appoint them as joint lead-plaintiffs. Mr. Packer and Mr.
14 Hirsch are friends and their families have known each other for many years. Each had seen the
15 published notice of the class action and had contacted the law firm of Bernstein Liebhard &
16 Lipshitz LLP. The firm represents Mr. Packer in other matters and Mr. Hirsch had a personal
17 relationship with a partner at the firm.

18 At the hearing, the Court noted that Globis appears to have been a net seller and asked
19 counsel to provide the Court with supplemental briefing as to whether defendants would assert
20 at class certification that Globis is not an appropriate class representative. The defendants and
21 Globis provided the Court with supplemental briefing. Defendants' position is that Globis,
22 being a net seller, profited from the alleged stock price inflation and therefore is not
23 representative of a typical and adequate plaintiff in this class action. Globis' position is that it
24 is an adequate and typical lead plaintiff in this class action if one calculates financial loss using
25 a "first-in/first-out" (FIFO) method of accounting. This issue is addressed in depth below.

26 After the hearing, three of the five cases were voluntarily dismissed and the Court
27 issued an order consolidating the remaining two actions. The following two actions were
28

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1 consolidated into the present case: *Coil Partners, LLC v. Sipex*, C05-00392 WHA and *Alfred*
2 *H. Jacobson v. Sipex*, C05-00712 WHA.

3 ANALYSIS

4 The PSLRA seeks to place a real investor, not a lawyer, in charge of the litigation on
5 behalf of the class. This statutory responsibility now resides in what the PSLRA calls the "lead
6 plaintiff." This representative acts as a fiduciary for all members of the proposed class and
7 must provide fair and adequate representation and management to obtain the largest recovery
8 for the proposed class consistent with good faith and meritorious advocacy.

9 The PSLRA provides that the Court "shall appoint as lead plaintiff the member or
10 members of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be the most capable of
11 adequately representing the interests of the class members in accordance with this
12 subparagraph." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(1). The Act creates a rebuttable presumption that
13 the most adequate plaintiff should be the plaintiff who: (1) has brought the motion for
14 appointment of lead counsel in response to the publication of notice; (2) has the "largest
15 financial interest" in the relief sought by the class; and (3) otherwise satisfies the requirements
16 of FRCP 23. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(aa)-(cc). The above presumption may be
17 rebutted only upon proof that the presumptive lead plaintiff (1) will not fairly and adequately
18 protect the interests of the class or (2) is subject to "unique defenses" that render such plaintiff
19 incapable of adequately representing the class. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II)(aa)-(bb).

20 The PSLRA does not provide any guidance concerning the method of calculating which
21 plaintiff has the "largest financial interest." See 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb). Courts
22 in this district have equated "largest financial interest" with the amount of potential recovery.
23 See *In Re Critical Path, Inc. Sec Litig.*, 156 F. Supp. 2d 1102, 1107-08 (N.D. Cal 2001); *In Re*
24 *Network Assocs., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 76 F. Supp.2d 1017, 1030 (N. D. Cal. 1999); *Weisz v. Calpine*
25 *Corp.*, 2002 WL 32818827, *5 (N.D. Cal 2002). In determining which lead plaintiff has
26 suffered the greatest loss under the PSLRA, the law regulating securities losses must be
27 reviewed in part, a discussion that will presently include the issue of the "first-in/first-out"
28 (FIFO) and "last-in/first-out" (LIFO) methods.

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1 Under the purchaser-seller rule, only purchasers who actually buy or sellers who
2 actually sell in reliance on fraud may sue. Those who simply refrain from buying or selling,
3 even if in reliance on fraud, may not sue. *Blue Chip Stamps et al. v. Manor Drug Stores*, 421
4 U.S. 723, 731–755 (1975). The class period begins when the market was first defrauded. It
5 ends on the date when the truth was fully revealed or when the misinformation became too stale
6 to matter. Those defrauded in between can sue. Once the full truth comes out, an investor
7 electing to keep the stock and gamble on the future events cannot sue for future losses.
8 Otherwise, securities manipulators would become guarantors of a floor market price — even
9 after their manipulations had run their course. See, e.g., *SEC v. Shapiro*, 494 F.2d 1301, 1309
10 (2nd Cir. 1979).

11 The rule of loss causation, in the typical case, requires that the purchaser prove that
12 when the truth came out, the stock price dropped and did so by reason of the exposure of the
13 fraud rather than by reason of industry-wide down trends or other negative factors.
14 *Dura Pharmaceuticals, Inc., v. Michael Brudo*, ___ U. S. ___, 125 S. Ct. 1627, 1631 (2005).
15 Put another way, it is not enough to show that at the time of the purchase, the misrepresentation
16 had created a so-called “fraud premium,” i.e., that had the truth been known at the time of
17 purchase, the market price would have been lower. Rather than focusing on the time of the
18 purchase, we must, for damages purposes, focus on the time of the sale and determine the
19 extent to which revelation of fraud depressed the price as of the sale date. To be more precise,
20 the key inquiry is to isolate the extent of misrepresentations (originally inducing the purchase)
21 that became known during the time the shares were held and then to determine the contributory
22 and cumulative effect of those revelations on the price as of the date of sale, the date of sale
23 being the date of an actual sale within the class period or, constructively, the end of the class
24 period for all shares held to the end.

25 Suppose a share is purchased for \$100 in reliance on an actionable misrepresentation.
26 The entire truth then suddenly comes out. The share price immediately drops \$60. The only
27 reason for the plunge is the revelation. The entire \$60 is recoverable.
28

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1 What happens, however, if the defrauded investor sells before the end of the class
2 period? In the case of a purchaser (within the class period) who sells *before any* of the truth is
3 revealed, of course, recovery might be doubtful. This is because the market has absorbed the
4 misinformation and imposed a fraud premium on both the purchase and sale. Often the fraud
5 premium will be the same in each case, thus cancelling the loss. In the case of a purchaser
6 (within the class period) who sells immediately after a partial revelation of the truth with a
7 resultant plunge in the stock price, the critical inquiry, again, is the extent to which the partial
8 revelation has depressed the price as of the date of the sale. Again, the focus is not on the fraud
9 premium on the day of purchase. The focus must be on the day of sale and on the contribution
10 to the loss due to the partial revelation of fraud.

11 Turning now to a scenario closer to our immediate case, what happens when an investor
12 already owns some shares going into the class period and/or trades actively within the class
13 period? When an investor already owns shares at the outset of the class period and sells them
14 during the class period, the investor actually profits from the fraud by recovering a fraud
15 premium over and above the true value of the shares. When the same investor already holds
16 shares at the outset of the class period but, in addition, buys and sells shares during the class
17 period, the gains received must be used to reduce the losses incurred. Otherwise, the investor
18 would reap a windfall.

19 Over the course of the class period, there are two items needed for this calculus. One
20 may be called the "loss-causation contribution." This is the contribution made to the overall
21 loss by revelation of fraud between the dates of the purchase and sale. This item is relevant to
22 recoverable damages as set forth by the Supreme Court. See *Dura Pharm. Inc.*, 125 S. Ct. at
23 1631-2. The other is the "fraud premium," *i.e.*, the extent to which the price remains inflated
24 due to unrevealed fraud. The second item is relevant to the offsetting of windfall for shares sold
25 during the class period.

26 The LIFO/FIFO issue arises, among other scenarios, when a trader has an inventory of
27 the shares in question going into the class period and trades during the class period, as here.
28 Suppose one share is owned going into the class period, another share is then bought in reliance

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1 on the fraud, one share is then sold midway through the class period and, finally, one share is
2 sold at the end of the class period. Recovery is allowable, of course, only for the share
3 purchased during the class period. But which share was sold when? Under FIFO, the
4 previously-held (non-actionable) share would be the first sold share. The fraud-induced
5 (actionable) share would be the last. Under LIFO, it would be the opposite. In doing the math
6 for the recoverable loss and the offsetting windfall, it would be necessary to determine the fraud
7 premium and loss-causation contribution. Depending on which of the two sales is deemed to be
8 actionable, these calculations will vary.³

9 The FIFO method would dictate that the actionable purchase was sold later. That loss
10 would be offset by a windfall of any fraud premium received on the first sale. The LIFO
11 method would dictate that the actionable purchase was sold first. There would be no windfall
12 on the later sale since, by definition, any fraud premium will always completely be eliminated
13 by the end of the class period. This, plus the fact that the recoverable loss will often be less
14 during the mid-range of the class period explains why defendants prefer the LIFO method and
15 plaintiffs prefer the FIFO, although this preference can be reversed in particular cases.

16 In the Court's view, LIFO is closer to the economic realities of market investing and the
17 purposes of the securities acts. If a trader buys and sells the same number of shares of the same
18 issue, on the same day, the economic reality of the basic investment decision is a net of one
19 against the other, *i.e.*, no change in position, at least as of the end of the day. Put differently, if
20 a trader buys and sells shares of the same issue over a brief period, the trader is relying on the
21 same basic market analysis and same market information. If a fraudulent misrepresentation has
22 affected the market, it has affected *both* sides of the equation. The LIFO method better tracks
23 the impact of investment decisions and how market fraud impacts them. This is at the core of
24 the securities acts. So, this Court will follow a LIFO convention for investors who both buy and
25 sell within the class period.

26
27
28 ³ This Court expresses no opinion on the scenario in which the stock price goes up during the class
period in the presence of fraud but where the stock price would have gone up even in absence of the fraud. *See*
Dura Pharm., Inc., 125 S. Ct. at 1632.

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1 This conclusion is in accordance with the weight of authority. *See, e.g., In re McKesson*
2 *HBOC, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 97 F. Supp. 2d 993, 996 fn.2 (N. D. Cal. 1999); *In re Network Assoc.*
3 *Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 76 Supp. 2d 1017, 1027 (N.D. Cal. 1999); *Weisz v. Calpine Corp.*, 2002 WL
4 32818827, *7 (N.D. Cal 2002); *In re Clearly Canadian Sec. Litig.*, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
5 14273, *12-14 (N.D. Cal. 1999); *In re Comdisco Sec. Litig.*, 150 F. Supp. 2d 943, 945 (N.D. Ill.
6 2001).

7 At the May 12, 2005 hearing, counsel for Globis relied on an unpublished decision,
8 *Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 572 Pension Fund v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
9 27008 (N.D. Cal. 2004), that cites *Broudo v. Dura Pharmaceuticals Inc.*, 339 F.3d 933, 938
10 (9th Cir. 2003), for the proposition that damages may be proved by simply showing that
11 plaintiffs purchased stock at an inflated price. As discussed, *Broudo* has been subsequently
12 overturned by *Dura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. Michael Broudo*, 125 S. Ct. 1627, 1631 (2005). In
13 its supplemental briefing, Globis cited published cases that used FIFO as an accounting
14 methodology for determining financial losses and several unpublished cases. *See e.g. Chill v.*
15 *Green Tree Financial Corp.*, 181 F.R.D. 398, 411 (D. Minn 1998); *Vanguard v. Ariba, Inc.*,
16 C-03-00277 JF, slip op. (N.D. Cal. 2003). These cites, however, are not helpful. While the
17 courts accepted the calculation of damages based on FIFO, they did not arrive at the application
18 of FIFO after a reasoned discussion of the merits. It was merely a background fact.

19 Since Globis, an active trader, was a net *seller* throughout the class period, there is a
20 plausible chance that Globis will have no net recovery. This is not yet certain, however,
21 because the necessary calculations are unknowable at this early stage. Only with the benefit of
22 expert evidence could the necessary items be determined and then netted. For the time being,
23 Globis has a sufficient stake to be appointed as one of two lead plaintiffs. Because the net loss
24 is speculative for Globis at this point and because Globis may eventually be shown to have no
25 net loss, Mr. Hirsch will be made a co-lead plaintiff. This ruling is without prejudice to defense
26 arguments to be made later, on the class certification motion. The same is true for the other
27 Rule 23 issues raised by the defense. (No other competing lead plaintiff is challenging the Rule
28 23 qualifications of the pending candidates).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD PLAINTIFF

The lead plaintiffs must take affirmative steps to keep themselves informed at all times of the progress and status of the case, the strengths and weaknesses of the case, the prospects for settlement, and the resources invested in the suit or proposed to be invested. With respect to each major litigation event, such as important motions, settlement discussions, trial, and trial preparation, the lead plaintiffs must actively inform themselves in advance and shall have the authority and responsibility to direct counsel, after, of course, receiving the advice of counsel. The lead plaintiffs must consult with counsel in advance to determine whether major tasks proposed by counsel are likely to add more value to the case than would be incurred in time and expense. The lead plaintiffs shall meet in person with lead trial counsel at least quarterly to review the progress and status of the case, shall attend all major hearings and mediation sessions and shall, at a minimum, attend all sessions of the trial where the jury is present. And, of course, the lead plaintiff must give testimony. No settlement will be approved by the Court without the lead plaintiffs' careful recommendation in favor of it. Reasonable travel, telephone and business expenses incurred as a result of the lead plaintiff duties, if detailed and itemized, may be reimbursed as expenses from any recovery.

Appended to this order are two forms of certification which Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Packer, on behalf of Globis Partners LLP, individually, must sign, file and serve on or before **JUNE 1, 2005**, in order to complete the appointment, obligating themselves to carry out the responsibilities as lead counsel and the procedure for selecting and approving class counsel, a procedure to which this order now turns.

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING AND APPROVING CLASS COUNSEL

Under the PSLRA, "[t]he most adequate plaintiff shall, subject to the approval of the court, select and retain counsel to represent the class." 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). Selection and approval of class counsel are important responsibilities for the lead plaintiff and the court. The selection and approval require an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and experience of counsel as well as the financial burden — in terms of fees and costs — on the class.

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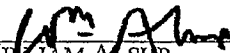
1 *Wenderhold v. Cylink Corp.*, 191 F.R.D. 600, 602-03 (N.D. Cal. 2000); *Network Assocs.*,
2 76 F. Supp. 2d at 1033-34.

3 Any important decision made by a fiduciary should be preceded by due diligence. A
4 lead plaintiff is a fiduciary for the investor class. No decision by the lead plaintiff is more
5 important than the selection of class counsel. Consequently, the lead plaintiff should precede
6 his or her choice with due diligence. The extent of such due diligence is a matter of judgment
7 and reasonableness based on the facts and circumstances.

8 The lead plaintiffs should immediately proceed to perform their due diligence and,
9 through counsel, move for the appointment and approval of their selected counsel no later than
10 JUNE 17. The motion should be accompanied by declarations from each lead plaintiff
11 explaining the due diligence undertaken by each with respect to the selection of class counsel.
12 The declarations should also explain why the counsel selected was favored over other potential
13 candidates. The declarations should be filed under seal and not served on defendants. The
14 motion for approval of lead plaintiffs' choice of counsel, however, should be served on defense
15 counsel. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court determines that it would be
16 beneficial. Once class counsel is approved, the first order of business will be to file a
17 consolidated complaint. The Court expects this to be done by JULY 14 and any motion to
18 dismiss to be filed by AUGUST 11.

19
20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21
22 Dated: May 24, 2005.

23 
24 WILLIAM ALSUP
25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
26
27
28

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE SIPEX CORPORATION
SECURITIES LITIGATION

No. C 05-00392 WHA

AND CONSOLIDATED CASES

**CERTIFICATION OF LEAD
PLAINTIFF SHAYE HIRSCH**

I have read and understand the Court's Order Appointing Lead Plaintiffs Globis Capital Partners LP and Shaye Hirsch, including the duties of lead plaintiff and the procedure for selecting and approving class counsel. I agree and promise to faithfully execute those provisions and to abide by the order. Once class counsel are selected and approved, I will work and cooperate fully with such counsel for the benefit of the investor class.

Dated:

Mr. Shaye Hirsch

Address:

Case 3:05-cv-00392-WHA Document 30-3 Filed 05/24/2005 Page 1 of 1

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE SIPEX CORPORATION
SECURITIES LITIGATION

No. C 05-00392 WHA

AND CONSOLIDATED CASES

**CERTIFICATION OF LEAD
PLAINTIFF GLOBIS CAPITAL
PARTNERS LP**

I have read and understand the Court's Order Appointing Lead Plaintiffs Globis Capital Partners LP and Shaye Hirsch, including the duties of lead plaintiff and the procedure for selecting and approving class counsel. I agree and promise to faithfully execute those provisions and to abide by the order. Once class counsel are selected and approved, I will work and cooperate fully with such counsel for the benefit of the investor class.

Dated: _____

Mr. Paul Packer on behalf of Globis
Partners LP

Address: _____

Case 2:04-cv-01599-JCC Document 38 Filed 11/30/2004 Page 1 of 4

The Honorable John C. Coughenour

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

SOUTH FERRY LP #2, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KERRY K. KILLINGER, THOMAS W. CASEY,
DEANNA W. OPPENHEIMER, WILLIAM W.
LONGBRAKE, CRAIG J. CHAPMAN, JAMES
G. VANASEK, MICHELLE MCCARTHY, and
WASHINGTON MUTUAL INC.,

Defendants.

Master File No. CV04-1599C

[PROPOSED] ORDER APPOINTING
LEAD PLAINTIFFS AND
APPROVING LEAD PLAINTIFFS'
SELECTION OF COUNSEL



04-CV-01599-ORD

Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP
1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2550
Seattle, WA 98154
Telephone: 206/839-0730 • Fax: 206/839-0728

1 Having considered The WAMU Investors Lead Plaintiff Group's Motion for
2 Appointment of Lead Plaintiff and Approval of Selection of Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel (the
3 "Motion"), and good cause appearing therefor, it is hereby ORDERED that:

4 1. The Motion is GRANTED.

5 2. The Court, having considered the provision of § 21D(a)(3)(B), as amended by the
6 PSLRA, hereby determines that The WAMU Investors Lead Plaintiff Group, consisting of
7 Metzler Investment GmbH, South Ferry LP #2, and The Walden Management Co. Pension Plan,
8 is appointed as Lead Plaintiff in this action.

9 3. Lead Plaintiffs' selection of Lead Counsel is approved. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
10 § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v), the law firm of Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP is appointed as
11 Lead Counsel in this consolidated action.

12 4. Lead Counsel for the class shall have the following responsibilities and duties, to
13 be carried out either personally or through counsel whom Lead Counsel shall designate:

- 14 a. To coordinate the briefing and argument of motions;
- 15 b. To coordinate the conduct of discovery proceedings;
- 16 c. To coordinate the examination of witnesses in depositions;
- 17 d. To coordinate the selection of counsel to act as spokesperson at pretrial
18 conferences;
- 19 e. To call meetings of counsel as they deem necessary and appropriate from
20 time to time;
- 21 f. To coordinate all settlement negotiations with counsel for defendants;
- 22 g. To coordinate and direct the pretrial discovery proceedings and the
23 preparation for trial and the trial of this matter, and to delegate work responsibilities to selected
24 counsel as may be required; and
- 25 h. To supervise any other matters concerning the prosecution or resolution of
26 the related and/or consolidated actions.


Case 2:04-cv-01599-JCC Document 38 Filed 11/30/2004 Page 3 of 4

1 5. No motion, request for discovery, or other pretrial proceedings shall be initiated
2 or filed by any plaintiff in this action without the approval of Lead Counsel, so as to prevent
3 duplicative pleadings or discovery by plaintiffs in this action. No settlement negotiations shall be
4 conducted in this action without the approval of Lead Counsel.

5 6. Defendants' counsel may rely upon agreements made with Lead Counsel. Such
6 agreements shall be binding on plaintiffs.

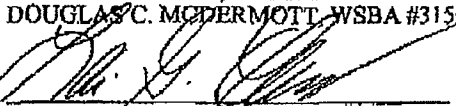
7 7. Any counsel of record for a party in this action who is not a member of the Bar of
8 this District is hereby admitted to practice *pro hac vice* in this action.

9 Dated this 30 day of Nov, 2004.

10
11 
12 HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

13 Presented by:

14 MILBERG WEISS BERSHAD
15 & SCHULMAN LLP
LORI G. FELDMAN, WSBA #29096
DOUGLAS C. McDERMOTT, WSBA #31500

16 
17 LORI G. FELDMAN
18 1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2550
Seattle, WA 98154
19 Telephone: (206) 839-0730
Facsimile: (206) 839-0728

20 -and-

21 MILBERG WEISS BERSHAD
22 & SCHULMAN LLP
MELVYN I. WEISS
23 SALVATORE J. GRAZIANO
PETER E. SEIDMAN
24 SHARON M. LEE
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New York, NY 10119
25 Telephone: (212) 868-1229
26 Facsimile: (212) 594-5300

[Proposed] Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs

[PROPOSED] ORDER APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFFS AND
APPROVING LEAD PLAINTIFFS' SELECTION OF COUNSEL
(Master File No. CV04-1599C)
DOCS226008V1

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3 **MICHAEL A. SWICK**
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5 New York, New York 10005
6 Telephone: (212) 584-0770
7 Facsimile: (212) 584-0799

8 **BULL & LIFSHITZ, LLP**
9 **PETER D. BULL**
10 **JOSHUA M. LIFSHITZ**
11 18 East 41st Street, 11th Floor
12 New York, New York 10017
13 Telephone: (212) 213-6222
14 Facsimile: (212) 213-9405

15 **Plaintiff's Counsel**
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

[PROPOSED] ORDER APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFFS AND
APPROVING LEAD PLAINTIFFS' SELECTION OF COUNSEL
(Master File No. CV04-1599C)
DOCS22608V1

- 3 -

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Case 2:04-cv-05025-P CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 1 of 10

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& SCHULMAN LLP
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PETER E. SEIDMAN
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(212) 868-1229 (fax)

Proposed Lead Counsel

[Additional Counsel on Signature Page]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

CONWAY INVESTMENT CLUB,
Individually and On Behalf of All
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.
CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
DAVID MOORE, ANTHONY
DIGIOVANNI and DENNIS BEAL,

Defendant.

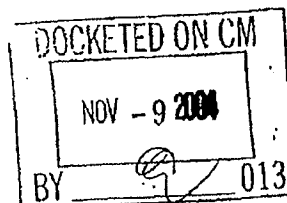
Case No. 2:04-cv-05025

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER
CONSOLIDATING THE ACTIONS,
APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFF,
AND APPROVING SELECTION OF
LEAD COUNSEL

Date: October 4, 2004
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Honorable Manuel L.
Real

Date Action Filed: July 8, 2004

(Additional Captions Set Forth Below)



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81

Case 2:04-cv-05025-5 CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 2 of 10

1 BARBARA KAUFMAN, On Behalf of
2 Herself and All Others Similarly
Situating,

3 Plaintiff,

4 vs.

5 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
6 DAVID G. MOORE, DENNIS N.
BEAL, AND ANTHONY F.
DIGIOVANNI,

7 Defendant.
8

Case No. 2:04-cv-05091 ✓

Judge: Honorable Manuel L. Real
Courtroom: 8
Date Action Filed: July 8, 2004

SCANNED

9
10 MICHAEL ORLANDO, Individually
and On Behalf of All Others Similarly
Situating,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
14 DAVID MOORE, ANTHONY
DIGIOVANNI and DENNIS BEAL,

15 Defendant.
16

Case No. 2:04-cv-05754 ✓

Judge: Honorable Manuel L. Real
Date Action Filed: July 16, 2004

17 PAULENA PARTNERS, LLC,
18 Individually and On Behalf of All
Others Similarly Situating,

19 Plaintiff,

20 vs.

21 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
22 DAVID MOORE, ANTHONY
DIGIOVANNI and DENNIS BEAL,

23 Defendant.
24
25
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28

Case No. 2:04-cv-06057 R ✓

Judge: Honorable Dale S. Fischer
Date Action Filed: July 23, 2004

Case 2:04-cv-05025-P-CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 3 of 10

1 JAMES DOLAN, On Behalf of Himself
2 and All Others Similarly Situated,

3
4 Plaintiff,

5 vs.

6 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
7 DAVID MOORE, PAUL ST. PIERRE,
8 DENNIS BEAL, and ANTHONY
9 DIGIOVANNI,

10 Defendant.

Case No. 2:04-cv-06076 ✓

Judge: Honorable Manuel L. Real
Date Action Filed: July 23, 2004

SCANNED

11 KWOK YAU TONG, Individually and
12 On Behalf of All Others Similarly
13 Situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
17 DAVID MOORE, ANTHONY
18 DIGIOVANNI and DENNIS BEAL,

19 Defendant.

Case No. 2:04-cv-06993 ✓

Judge: Honorable Manuel L. Real
Date Action Filed: August 20, 2004

20 DOUGLAS ROSE, On Behalf of
21 Himself and All Others Similarly
22 Situated,

23 Plaintiff,

24 vs.

25 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
26 DAVID MOORE, PAUL ST. PIERRE,
27 DENNIS BEAL and ANTHONY
28 DIGIOVANNI,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:04-cv-06994 ✓

Judge: Honorable Manuel L. Real
Date Action Filed: August 20, 2004

Case 2:04-cv-05025-P-CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 4 of 10

1 IVAN MENESES, Individually and on
2 Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

3 Plaintiff,

4 vs.

5 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
6 ANTHONY DIGIOVANNI, DAVID
7 MOORE and DENNIS BEAL,

8 Defendant.

Case No. ~~8:04-cv-923~~

2:04-0513

Judge: Honorable David O. Carter
Date Action Filed: August 4, 2004

SCANNED

64-6994

9 DOUGLAS ROSE, On Behalf of
10 Himself and All Others Similarly
11 Situated,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
15 DAVID MOORE, PAUL ST. PIERRE,
16 DENNIS BEAL and ANTHONY
17 DIGIOVANNI,

18 Defendant.

Case No. ~~8:04-cv-926~~

Judge: Honorable David O. Carter
Date Action Filed: August 5, 2004

19 KOK YEOH, On Behalf of Himself and
20 All Others Similarly Situated,

21 Plaintiff,

22 vs.

23 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
24 DAVID MOORE, PAUL ST. PIERRE,
25 DENNIS BEAL and ANTHONY
26 DIGIOVANNI,

27 Defendant.

Case No. ~~8:04-cv-959~~

64-8393

Judge: Honorable Gary L. Taylor
Date Action Filed: August 9, 2004

Case 2:04-cv-05025-P-CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 5 of 10

1 JAMES STELLATO, On Behalf of
2 Himself and All Others Similarly
3 Situated,

Plaintiff,

4 vs.

5 CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC.,
6 DAVID MOORE, PAUL ST. PIERRE,
7 DENNIS BEAL and ANTHONY
8 DIGIOVANNI,

Defendant.

Case No. ~~8:04-cv-997~~

OK 8/16/04 R

Judge: Honorable David O. Carter
Date Action Filed: August 16, 2004

SCANNED

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Case 2:04-cv-05025-CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 6 of 10

1 Having considered the motion of Metzler Investment GmbH ("Metzler
2 Investment"), and good cause appearing therefore, the Court orders as follows:

3
4 1. The Motion is GRANTED; ~~≠~~


5 2. The above-captioned actions are consolidated pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
6 42(a);

7
8 3. Metzler Investment is the "most adequate plaintiff" and accordingly, is
9 appointed Lead Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii);

10 4. Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP is appointed Lead Counsel,
11 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v).

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13
14 DATED: Nov. 1, 2004


Honorable Manuel L. Real
United States District Court Judge

15 Submitted by:

16 Dated: September 7, 2004

17 MILBERG WEISS BERSHAD
18 & SCHULMAN LLP
19 Jeff S. Westerman

20 
JEFF S. WESTERMAN

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28 Proposed Lead Counsel

SCANNED

Case 2:04-cv-05025-BW Document 81 Filed 11/01/004 Page 7 of 10

THE BRUALDI LAW FIRM
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Plaintiff's Counsel

SCANNED

Case 2:04-cv-05025-CW Document 81 Filed 11/01/2004 Page 8 of 10

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL


I, the undersigned, declare:

1. That declarant is and was, at all times herein mentioned, a resident of the County of Los Angeles, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to or interest in the within action; that declarant's business address is 355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 4170, Los Angeles, California 90071.

2. That on September 7, 2004, declarant served the [PROPOSED] ORDER CONSOLIDATING THE ACTIONS, APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFF AND APPROVING SELECTION OF LEAD COUNSEL by depositing a true copy thereof in a United States mailbox at Los Angeles, California in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the parties listed on the attached Service List.

3. That there is a regular communication by mail between the place of mailing and the places so addressed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 7TH day of September, 2004, at Los Angeles, California.


CYNTHIA DORSEY

SCANNED

CORINTHIAN COLLEGES

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 Francis M. Gregorek
 Rachele R. Rickert

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Deborah R. Gross BERNARD M. GROSS LAW OFFICES 1515 Locust St, 2nd Fl. Philadelphia, PA 19102 Tel.: (215) 561-3600 <i>Attorneys for James Stellato</i>	Robert I. Harwood Joshua D. Glatter WECHSLER HARWOOD 488 Madison Avenue 8th Floor New York, NY 10022 Tel.: (212) 935-7400 <i>Attorneys for Kwok Yau Tong</i>
Defendants	
Robert Dell Angelo Munger Tolles & Olson LLP 355 South Grand Avenue, 35 th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071 Tel: (213) 683-9100 (213) 687-3702 (fax)	

SCANNED

Case 3:04-cv-02275-SI Document 51 Filed 09/28/2004 Page 1 of 9

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD CURTIS, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BEA SYSTEMS, INC., ALFRED S. CHUANG,
CHARLES L. ILL, III, and THOMAS M.
ASHBURN,

Defendants.

No. C 04-2275 SI

CLASS ACTION

**ORDER CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS
AND APPOINTING LEAD PLAINTIFF
AND LEAD COUNSEL**

On September 24, 2004, the Court heard argument on motions to consolidate various related securities class actions and competing motions to appoint lead plaintiff and lead counsel. Having considered the papers filed and the argument of counsel, the Court GRANTS the motion to consolidate these actions, appoints ARCA S.p.A. lead plaintiff and appoints its counsel, Green & Jigarjian and Schiffrin & Barroway, lead counsel.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs Tareq Zuaiter, John E. Kalil, and Roland Pardun ("the Zuaiter Group") and ARCA S.G.R. S.p.A. ("ARCA") are members of a class bringing a securities class action against defendant BEA Systems, Inc. ("BEA Systems" or the "Company") under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "'34 Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

BEA Systems is a provider of application infrastructure software and related services. Compl. ¶ 2. Specifically, a product called the "BEA WebLogic Enterprise Platform" provides application infrastructure "for building and deploying distributed, integrated information technology environments, allowing customers to

Case 3:04-cv-02275-SI Document 51 Filed 09/28/2004 Page 2 of 9

1 integrate private client/server networks, the Internet, intranets, extranets, virtual private networks, and
2 mainframe and legacy systems as system components." Id. The Company's executive offices are in San Jose,
3 where its day-to-day operations occur. Id. at ¶ 7(b). Plaintiffs allege that the Company and certain of its
4 officers and directors artificially inflated the Company's stock price during the class period, November 13,
5 2003 through May 13, 2004, by issuing materially false and misleading statements regarding BEA's business
6 and prospects. Id. at ¶ 3.

7 On May 13, 2004, BEA reported disappointing first quarter results and attributed these results to "the
8 difficult selling environment" and "sales execution issues." Id. at ¶ 3. Company shares fell 30% to \$8 per
9 share. Id. at ¶ 3. Plaintiffs allege that defendants knew and concealed the real reasons for the first quarter
10 results: (1) the Company was experiencing sales execution problems in its licensing division, which would result
11 in license reserve being down; (2) a reorganization of the Company's sales' personnel disrupted sales during
12 the preceding quarter; (3) the Company's WebLogic 8.1 Platform product was not selling as well as defendants
13 claimed, and was not "revolutionary"; (4) the Company's North American reserves were disrupted by a
14 transfer of medium and small businesses to the General Accounts Team; and (5) the Company was
15 experiencing weakness in its telecom vertical business. Id. at ¶¶ 4(a)-(d); 23(a)-(e).

16 Because of defendants' false statements, the Company's stock price traded at inflated prices, as high
17 as \$14 per share. Id. at ¶ 5. The Company's officers and directors sold more than \$13 million worth when
18 the stock traded at its allegedly artificially inflated price. Id. Plaintiff and other class members allegedly suffered
19 injury when they purchased the Company's stock at artificially inflated prices. Id. at ¶ 27-28.

20 The first of seven related securities class actions was filed against BEA Systems on June 9, 2004.
21 ARCA Mot. for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff ("ARCA Mot.") at 3:12. Between June 9, 2004 and July 17,
22 2004, six more suits were filed in this District. Id. at 1:15-16. As required by § 21 D(a)(3)(A)(i) of the
23 Exchange Act, a notice was published over Business Wire on June 9, 2004, advising class members of the
24 existence and nature of the litigation. Decl. of Patrice L. Bishop ("Bishop Decl."), Ex. A; Decl. of Darren J.
25 Check ("Check Decl."), Ex. B. The notice set a 60 day window for class members to appear and move for
26 appointment as lead plaintiff, by August 9, 2004. Id. Three motions were filed within the time limit, two of
27
28

Case 3:04-cv-02275-SI Document 51 Filed 09/28/2004 Page 3 of 9

1 which are now before the Court, one by the Zuaite Group, and one by ARCA.¹ In addition, both movants
2 have moved to have all the actions consolidated.

3 The Zuaite Group is comprised of three individuals who collectively purchased 48,380 shares of BEA
4 systems stock during the Class Period. Zuaite Group's Mot. for Appointment as Lead Plaintiff ("Zuaite
5 Group Mot.") at 5:9-10. ARCA is a mutual fund manager based in Milan, Italy. ARCA Mot. at 2:4; Decl.
6 of John W. Pillette ("Pillette Decl."), Ex. A (Decl. of Dr. Attilio Ferrari) ¶ 2.

7 Now before the Court are the two competing motions for appointment of lead plaintiff and approval
8 of counsel, one by the Zuaite Group, represented by Stull, Stull & Brody, LLP; and one by ARCA,
9 represented by Schiffman & Barroway, LLP and Green and Jigarjian, LLP.

11 LEGAL STANDARD

12 A. Motion to consolidate

13 Under Rule 42(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

14 When actions involving a common question of law or fact are pending before the court, it may order
15 a joint hearing or trial of any or all the matters in issue in the actions; it may order all the actions
16 consolidated; and it may make such orders concerning proceedings therein as may tend to avoid
unnecessary costs or delay.

17 Courts have recognized that securities class actions are particularly suited to consolidation to help expedite
18 pretrial proceedings, reduce case duplication, avoid the involvement of parties and witnesses in multiple
19 proceedings, and minimize the expenditure of time and money by everyone involved. See In re Equity Funding
20 of Amer. Sec. Litig., 416 F. Supp. 161, 176 (C.D. Cal. 1976) (citation omitted). A court must rule on a
21 motion to consolidate before it can rule on a motion to appoint a lead plaintiff. Securities Exchange Act, §
22 21D(a)(3)(B)(ii), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(ii).

25 B. Motion to appoint lead plaintiff

26 It has been long recognized that private securities litigation provides "a most effective weapon in the

27
28 ¹ Cement Masons and Plasterers Retirement Trust, Brian A. Metz and Mustapha Bahij also filed a
motion for appointment of lead plaintiff and counsel, but withdrew that motion on August 27, 2004.

Case 3:04-cv-02275-SI Document 51 Filed 09/28/2004 Page 4 of 9

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 enforcement' of the securities laws and [is] 'a necessary supplement to [administrative] action.'" Bateman
2 Eichler, Hill Richards, Inc. v. Berner, 472 U.S. 299, 310, 105 S. Ct. 2622 (1985). Although Congress
3 affirmed that such litigation "is an indispensable tool with which defrauded investors can recover losses," it
4 enacted the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PSLRA) in response to a widespread perception
5 of abuse in securities class actions. Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of Conf., Conference Report
6 on Sec. Litig. Reform, H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 104-39 at 31 (1995). Section 21D of the PSLRA provides
7 well-defined standards and procedures for selecting lead plaintiffs in a securities class action and is "intended
8 to encourage the most capable representatives of the plaintiff class to participate in class action litigation and
9 to exercise supervision and control of the lawyers for the class." H.R. 104-39 at 32. See generally In re
10 Microstrategy Inc. Sec. Litig., 110 F. Supp. 2d 427, 432-436 (E.D. Va. 2000).

11 Under the procedures set out in the PSLRA, all proposed lead plaintiffs must have submitted a sworn
12 certification setting forth certain facts designed to assure the court that the plaintiff (i) has suffered more than
13 a nominal loss, (ii) is not a professional litigant, and (iii) is otherwise interested and able to serve as a class
14 representative. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(2)(A). The plaintiff in the first lawsuit to be filed must additionally
15 publish notice of the complaint in a widely circulated business publication within twenty days of filing the
16 complaint. Id. at § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i). The notice must include a description of the claim and notify
17 prospective class members that they may move within 60 days of the notice to be named lead plaintiff.

18 Once applications for lead plaintiff status are closed, the district court must determine who among the
19 movants for lead plaintiff status is the "most adequate plaintiff." Id. at § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i). The PSLRA directs
20 courts to "appoint as lead plaintiff the member or members of the purported plaintiff class that the court
21 determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members" Id. Toward
22 this end, the court must consider three factors: "the court shall adopt a presumption that the most adequate
23 plaintiff . . . is the person or group of persons that - (aa) has either filed the complaint or made a motion in
24 response to a notice . . . ; (bb) in the determination of the court, has the largest financial interest in the relief
25 sought by the class; and (cc) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil
26 Procedure." Id. at § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). The presumption of most adequate plaintiff may be rebutted by
27 evidence that the designated plaintiff "will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class" or "is
28

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1 subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class." Id. at §
2 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

3 In the Ninth Circuit, In re Cavanaugh, 306 F.3d 726, 729-30 (9th Cir. 2002), governs lead plaintiff
4 selection and establishes a three-step process. First, as discussed above, timely and complete notice of the
5 action must be published. Id. at 729. Second, the district court considers the losses suffered by potential lead
6 plaintiffs and selects "the one who 'has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class' and
7 'otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.'" Id. at 730, citing 15
8 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). Thus the court must determine which plaintiff "has the most to gain from the
9 lawsuit." Cavanaugh, 306 F.3d at 730. Finally, the court focuses on that plaintiff to ensure that the proposed
10 lead plaintiff "satisfies the requirements of [Fed. R. Civ. Pro.] 23 (a), in particular those of 'typicality' and
11 'adequacy.'" Id.

12 A plaintiff who satisfies the first two steps becomes the "presumptively most adequate plaintiff." Id.
13 In step three, other plaintiffs have the opportunity to rebut the presumptive lead plaintiff's showing of typicality
14 and adequacy. Id. at 730, citing 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

15 Once the court has designated a lead plaintiff, the lead plaintiff "shall, subject to the approval of the
16 court, select and retain counsel to represent the class." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). A court generally
17 should accept the lead plaintiff's choice of counsel unless it appears necessary to appoint different counsel to
18 "protect the interests of the class." Id. at § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II)(aa). In the Ninth Circuit, Cavanaugh
19 establishes the standard for approval of lead counsel. "[T]he district court does not select class counsel at all,"
20 id. at 732; instead, the district court generally approves the lead plaintiff's selection of counsel.

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DISCUSSION**A. Motion to consolidate**

Both proposed lead plaintiffs have filed motions to consolidate the seven related cases pending in the Northern District of California against BEA Systems, Inc., and both motions are unopposed. The Court GRANTS the motions to consolidate.

B. Competing motions to appoint lead plaintiff and approve lead counsel

The notice of this action was posted on Business Wire, a widely circulated national business-oriented publication. See Bishop Decl., Ex. A; Check Decl., Ex. B. The Zwaiter Group and ARCA have both filed timely motions for appointment as lead plaintiff and submitted acceptable sworn certifications. See Bishop Decl., Ex. B; Check Decl., Ex. A. The only task that remains is to determine which movant is the most adequate plaintiff.

1. Financial interest in the litigation

The Court must first determine which movant has "the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii). The Zwaiter Group asserts that its financial interest in the litigation is \$242,625, distributed as follows: Zwaiter – \$138,221; Kalil – \$55,804; and Pardun – \$48,600. Zwaiter Group's Mot. at 2:20; Bishop Decl., Exs. B, C. ARCA asserts that it has the largest financial interest in the case, with losses of \$255,042. ARCA's Mot. at 2:1-2; Check Decl., Ex. C.

ARCA claims that the Zwaiter Group's loss figures are inflated because group member John Kalil's sales figures for May 13, 2004, do not match the Bloomberg trading data for that date. Specifically, Kalil states that he sold 3,800 shares at \$9.22 per share and 10,200 shares at \$9.10 per share for a loss of \$55,804, but ARCA states that BEA Systems stock traded at a low of \$10.49 per share that day. See ARCA Opp'n, Ex. A. Applying these figures, ARCA calculates the Zwaiter Group's total loss at \$223,621. ARCA's Opp'n at 3:13. The Zwaiter Group counters that, while BEA stock did close on May 13, 2004 at \$10.78, the stock price dropped on after-hours trading and opened at \$9.04 on May 14, 2004. Zwaiter Group's Surreply at 1:8-11; Exs. 1-2.

1 Regardless of which figures are used to calculate the Zuaite Group's losses, the Court finds that
 2 ARCA has the largest financial interest in the litigation, and is thus entitled to the presumption of most adequate
 3 plaintiff, if it meets the requirements of typicality and adequacy.

4 5 2. Typicality and adequacy

6 While the Zuaite Group does not dispute ARCA's higher loss figures, it argues that ARCA should not
 7 serve as lead plaintiff because ARCA is an atypical member of the class. Specifically, the Zuaite Group alleges
 8 that ARCA "engaged in a suspicious pattern of trading which included short selling BEA stock" during the Class
 9 Period. Zuaite Group's Opp'n at 2:21-24. As an alleged short-seller and possible "hedge fund," the Zuaite
 10 Group contends, ARCA intended to drive down the price of stock so that it could buy more at a lower price,
 11 and therefore its interests are not aligned with those of other class members.² In addition, the Zuaite Group
 12 questions whether ARCA's clients have authorized ARCA to litigate on their behalf, and points out that there
 13 is a pending case before the Ninth Circuit regarding whether an "investment advisor" may be appointed as lead
 14 plaintiff. Id. at 3:22-25; see id., Ex. 1 (In re Employers-Teamsters Local Nos. 175 & 505 Pension Trust Fund
 15 v. Anchor Capital Advisors, No. 04-73146). It contends that ARCA has not provided specific information
 16 about its structure, clients, whether it has notified its clients of its motion for appointment as lead plaintiff, or
 17 what "sophistication and resources" it has to "effectively manage this litigation." Zuaite Group Opp'n at 1:7-
 18 14.

19 ARCA responds that Zuaite Group has not shown that ARCA engaged in short selling or established
 20 why ARCA "appears" to be a hedge fund or asset manager. ARCA states that it is a mutual fund manager that
 21 invested in BEA Systems on behalf of its own mutual funds, not on behalf of individual clients who control those
 22 funds or receive investment advice from ARCA, and attaches a declaration from its Managing Director in
 23 support of these claims. ARCA Reply at 4:10-14; see Pillette Decl., Ex. A (Decl. of Dr. Attilio Ferrari) ¶ 2,
 24

25 ² The Zuaite Group bases its claim that ARCA engaged in short-selling by pointing to the fact that
 26 ARCA purchased 254,388 shares of BEA Systems stock for \$12.2776 on November 19, 2003; it sold them
 27 for a profit of \$0.2206 per share, a total of \$56,118 one week later; just over three weeks later, it purchased
 28 353,715 more shares for \$12.3378 and sold these over the next two months for profits ranging from \$1.7957
 per share to \$0.6074 per share, totaling \$371.269. It then had 88,430 shares left, and it bought 88,430 more,
 of which it sold 36,397 two weeks before the May 13, 2004 announcement. See Zuaite Group Opp'n at 3:7-
 16. Without more, the Court is unpersuaded that this reflects short-selling.

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1 4. Therefore, ARCA has full authority to bring suit, and Dr. Ferrari will actively monitor the litigation. *Id.* at
2 ¶ 4-5. ARCA also argues that, as a large investor, it is precisely the kind of prototypical "institutional investor"
3 that Congress intended to serve as lead plaintiff under the PSLRA. ARCA Mot. at 8:12-25.

4 By contrast, ARCA argues, the Zuaite group does not survive the "rule of reason," under which the
5 proposed group of plaintiffs must "actively represent the class." This Court applies this rule of reason on a
6 case-by-case basis to determine whether an asserted group "has demonstrated the ability to represent the class
7 and direct the litigation without undue influence from counsel." *In re Versata, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2001 U.S. Dist.
8 LEXIS 24270, at *21 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 20, 2001). Because the Court lacks any specific information about
9 the three individuals in the Zuaite Group, ARCA argues that it cannot ensure that this group of plaintiffs has
10 the sophistication and business knowledge to adequately represent the class and direct the litigation without
11 undue influence from counsel. *In re Versata*, at *18-*22.³

12 The Court finds that ARCA meets the typicality and adequacy requirements. To meet the typicality
13 requirement, the claims of a lead plaintiff and class members need not be identical. *In re Enron Corp. Sec.*
14 *Litig.*, 206 F.R.D. 427, 445 (S.D. Tex. 2002), citing *In re Lucent Techs., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 194 F.R.D. 137,
15 150 (D.N.J. 2000) ("the typicality requirement is satisfied when the plaintiff's claim arises from the same event
16 or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other members and is based on the same legal theory.").
17 In fact, "the test for typicality is not demanding . . . [T]he critical inquiry is whether the class representative's
18 claims have the same essential characteristics of the putative class." *In re Enron*, at 445, n.10, citing *Sturman*
19 *v. Exxon Corp.*, 280 F.3d 554, 562-63 (5th Cir. 2002). As the court explained in *Deutschman v. Beneficial*
20 *Corp.*, 132 F.R.D. 359, 373 (D. Del., 1990), "the focus of the typicality inquiry is not on plaintiff's behavior,
21 but defendants'." If defendants' course of conduct gave rise to all class members' claims and if "defendants
22 have not taken any action unique to the named plaintiff, then the representative's claim is typical." *Id.* (citations
23 omitted). Here, the claims of all plaintiffs, including ARCA, are based on whether BEA Systems' alleged
24 misrepresentations injured its stockholders by artificially inflating its stock price. Moreover, the Court is
25

26
27 ³ The Court does not agree with ARCA that specific information from proposed lead plaintiffs is always
28 required. In *Versata*, the Court relied on declarations submitted by the putative plaintiffs to establish their
business sophistication, but did not expressly require them, like the district court in *In re Network Associates*
Inc. Sec. Litig., 76 F.Supp.2d 1017 (N.D. Cal. 1999).

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1 satisfied that ARCA is neither a hedge fund engaged in short selling nor an investment advisor acting without
2 the authorization of its clients.

3 The representative must have sufficient interest in the case's outcome to ensure vigorous advocacy.
4 The Court finds no evidence of any antagonism between the interests of ARCA and the class. ARCA has
5 certified its willingness to serve as representative plaintiff and has retained counsel experienced in litigation
6 securities class actions. No challenge has been made to ARCA's selection of counsel.

7 The Court finds that ARCA, as the plaintiff with the largest financial stake in the litigation, also satisfies
8 the typicality and adequacy tests necessary to serve as lead plaintiff in this litigation.

9
10 **CONCLUSION**

11 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown, the Court hereby GRANTS the motions to
12 consolidate all related actions. The Court GRANTS ARCA's motion for appointment as lead plaintiffs along
13 with Schiffirin & Barroway LLP as lead counsel and Green & Jigarjian LLP as liaison counsel. The motion by
14 the Zuaite Group is DENIED.

15 Counsel for ARCA is ordered to prepare, circulate for approval as to form and submit to the Court
16 an order of consolidation and an Amended Consolidated Complaint, all to be filed on or before October
17 15, 2004.

18
19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20
21 Dated: September 24, 2004

S/Susan Illston

22 SUSAN ILLSTON
23 United States District Judge
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Westlaw.

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Briefs and Other Related Documents

Only the Westlaw citation is currently available.

United States District Court, N.D. Ohio, Eastern
Division.

In re: THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER
COMPANY SECURITIES LITIGATION
No. 5:03 CV 2166.

May 12, 2004.

Jack Landskroner, Cleveland, OH, for Plaintiff.
Jack Morrison, Jr., Thomas R. Houlihan, Akron, OH,
Jacob B. Radcliff, Jerome S. Hirsch, Jonathan Lerner,
Lauren Aguiar, New York, NY, John T. Billick,
Cleveland, OH, for Defendants.

MEMORANDUM OPINION & ORDER

[Resolving Docs. 13, 16, 17 in case # 5:03CV2166
and Doc. 12 in case # 5:03CV2210]

I. Introduction

ADAMS, J.

*1 The above-captioned case is an action for securities fraud brought on behalf of shareholders of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (the "Shareholders") against Defendants The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (Goodyear), Robert J. Keegan, Robert W. Tiekens, Samir G. Gibara, Stephanie W. Bergeron, John W. Richardson, and Richard J. Kramer, (collectively referred to as "Defendants"). The Shareholders base their claims on violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, Section 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Rule 10b-5, which was promulgated thereunder. The action was filed as a class action, excluding from the class Defendants, directors and officers of Goodyear, their families and affiliates.

On December 31, 2003, this Court entered an order consolidating all individual actions related to this matter. Shortly thereafter certain individual movants filed motions requesting appointment as lead plaintiff in the consolidated action. The first group of movants consists of the Alaska Electrical Pension Fund and the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas

Pension Fund (the "Institutional Funds").^{FN1} The second group of movants consist of funds A57, C16 and NK1, which are part of the fund family managed by Capital Invest, die Kapitalanlagegesellschaft der Bank Austria Creditanstalt Gruppe GmbH, a fund management company located in Vienna, Austria (Capital Invest).^{FN2} The last movant is Flamina Holdings, AG (Flamina Holdings).^{FN3} Flamina Holdings is a holding entity for two individual investors, Mr. Michael May and Ms. Christina May.

^{FN1}. ECF Doc. 16.

^{FN2}. ECF Doc. 17.

^{FN3}. Flamina's motion was filed as ECF Doc. 12 in case 5:03CV2210.

On February 10, 2004, the Court held a hearing at which time counsel for each of the proposed lead plaintiffs had an opportunity to present their arguments. Counsel for the Institutional Funds, Capital Invest and Flamina were present at the hearing.^{FN4} The Court has reviewed the parties' motions, responses, and replies thereto. It has also fully considered the arguments presented at the hearing.

^{FN4}. The Court notes that a motion filed by movant Richard Berman is still pending on its docket. Mr. Berman was not represented by counsel at the hearing. Therefore, the Court deems his motion withdrawn. Even if the Court seriously considered Mr. Berman's motion, however, it would not appoint him as lead plaintiff in this action. By Mr. Berman's own admission, he has lost only \$54,730, which is much less than the losses the other movants allegedly suffered. (Berman, Mot. for Lead Plf. at 9).

II. The Alleged Losses

The Institutional Funds request appointment as lead plaintiff based on their alleged loss of more than \$3.7 million in connection with the purchase of over 188,000 shares of Goodyear securities between the time of October 13, 1998 and October 22, 2003 (the "Class Period"). The Institutional Funds also request

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approval of their selection of lead counsel, William S. Lerach and Tor Gronborg of Milberg, Weiss, Bershad, Hynes & Lerach LLP and Landskroner-Grieco, Ltd. as liaison counsel.

Likewise, Capital Invest requests appointment as lead plaintiff based on its loss of approximately \$1.2 million in connection with its acquisition of 83,100 shares of Goodyear common stock during the class period. Capital Invest also requests approval of its selection of lead counsel the law firm of Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossman, LLP (Bernstein Litowitz) and the law firm Climaco, Lefkowitz, Peca, Wilcox & Garofoli Co., LPA (Climaco Lefkowitz) as liaison counsel.

*2 Flamina Holdings requests appointment as lead plaintiff based on its alleged loss of \$2 million in connection with its acquisition of common stock and options. Flamina Holdings also requests approval of its selection of lead counsel the law firm of Scott & Scott and the law firm Tzangas, Plakas, Mannos, & Recuperio as liaison counsel. However, Flamina Holdings' stated losses are based on its losses plus the losses of Goodyear Tireworkers Independent Unity of the USWA Local 307 Topeka (GTWJU), who no longer seeks appointment as lead plaintiff. GTWJU was originally a co-movant with Flamina Holdings. However, it subsequently withdrew from the motion.^{FN5} At the hearing on this matter, Flamina Holdings represented that its loss alone was only \$885,000.

FN5. ECF Doc. 32, filed in case 5:03CV2166.

III. Capital Invest is Appointed as Lead Plaintiff

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA) sets forth the procedure that governs appointment of the lead plaintiff in actions arising under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 when such an action is brought as a class action under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See generally* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(1) and (a)(3)(B)(i). This procedure first requires that the plaintiff who files the initial action, within 20 days of filing, publish a notice to the class informing the class members of their right to file a motion for appointment as lead plaintiff. *Id.* at § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i).^{FN6}

FN6. Here, the first notice of pendency was published over *The Business Wire* on

October 23, 2003. Consistent with the PSLRA, the notice advised potential class members of the pendency of the action, the claims asserted therein, the purported class period, and that any member may, within 60 days from the date of the notice, move the Court to serve as lead plaintiff in the action. *Id.* at § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i).

The PSLRA also provides that within 90 days after publication of notice, the district court shall consider the class members' motions and shall appoint as lead plaintiff the member or members of the class that the Court determines most capable of adequately representing the interests of the class members. ^{FN7} *Id.* at § 78u-4(3)(B)(i). When making the determination of "most adequate plaintiff," the PSLRA states that:

FN7. The Court acknowledges that this Order designating lead Plaintiff was not issued within 90 days after publication of notice. However, the Court was not able to comply with the 90-day provision in this case. Based on the Court's trial schedule it was not able to hold the hearing before expiration of the 90-day period. Accordingly, the Court did not have the requisite information on which to base its decision. *In re PRI Automation, Inc. Securities Litigation*, 145 F.Supp.2d 138, 144-45 (D.Mass.2001) (noting that compliance with the 90-day provision in some cases would require a district judge to make an uninformed decision and finding the 90-day provision to be an unconstitutional intrusion on judicial functions). Moreover, the Court needed time after the hearing to appropriately consider the parties' motions and focus on selecting the lead plaintiff and lead counsel best suited to adequately and fairly represent the interests of the plaintiff class in this case. *See id.*

[T]he court shall adopt a presumption that the most adequate plaintiff in any private action arising under [the PSLRA] is the person or group of persons that - (aa) has either filed the complaint or made a motion in response to a notice ...; (bb) in the determination of the court, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class; and (cc) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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Id. § 78u-4 (3)(B)(iii)(I)(aa)-(cc). The above presumption may only be rebutted by proof that the presumptive lead plaintiff (1) will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class, or (2) is subject to "unique defenses" that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing to the class. *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(aa)-(bb). The lead plaintiff selected by the Court has the discretion to retain counsel of its choice to represent the class, subject to court approval. *Id.* § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v).

Here, all movants have timely filed their motions to be appointed lead plaintiff in this action. Accordingly, the Court now turns to its determination of the movants' relative financial interests in the relief sought by the class.

IV. Largest Financial Interest

*3 The PSLRA does not provide any guidance concerning the method of calculating which plaintiff has the "largest financial interest." *See id.* 78(u)(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb). This Court will calculate financial interest employing a four-factor inquiry recognized by a host of other district courts. *See, e.g., In re Olsten Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 3 F.Supp.2d 286, 295 (E.D.N.Y.1998); *In re Nice Sec. Litig.*, 188 F.R.D. 206, 217 (D.N.J.1999); *In re Cable & Wireless, PLC, Sec. Litig.*, 217 F.R.D. 372, 375 n. 4 (E.D.Va.2003); *In re Comedisco Sec. Litig.*, 150 F.Supp.2d 943, 945 (N.D.Ill.2001). The four factors relevant to the calculation are: (1) the number of stock shares purchased during the class period; (2) the number of net shares purchased during the class period; (3) the total net funds expended by the plaintiffs during the class period; and (4) the approximate losses suffered during the class period. The Court separately addresses each movant's financial interest in light of these factors, subject to the caveat that this discussion is limited to resolving the lead plaintiff motions, and is not an ultimate determination of liability and damages.

A. *Flamina Holdings*

Under the foregoing analysis, Flamina Holdings has not demonstrated the most significant financial interest in this litigation. Flamina Holdings purchased and sold 65,000 shares of Goodyear stock during the Class Period, for a net purchase of zero shares. The company expended \$1,550,000 and received \$665,400, incurring a total loss of \$884,600. The

record thus indicates that, of the three movants for lead plaintiff, Flamina Holdings expended the least amount of funds and purchased the fewest (total) shares of Goodyear stock during the Class Period. As the Court discusses below, Flamina Holdings' \$884,600 loss is not the greatest loss incurred by the movants. Accordingly, Flamina Holdings is not the best candidate for lead plaintiff.

Flamina Holdings' motion is denied on the additional ground that the movant is a holding company for two individual investors and thus is not an "institutional investor." The legislative history of the PSLRA reflects a preference for institutional investors in the lead plaintiff role. *See In re Telxon Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 67 F.Supp.2d 803, 821 (N.D. Ohio 1999).

Flamina Holdings' alternative request for appointment as a co-lead plaintiff also is denied. A co-lead plaintiff appointment is not warranted under the circumstances present in this case and likely would result in increased costs and duplication of efforts.

B. *The Institutional Funds*

The Institutional Funds' motion also is denied on the ground that the Institutional Funds do not have the most significant financial interest in this litigation based on damages incurred from purchases and sales of Goodyear securities during the Class Period. Although the movants' respective representations of loss seem to indicate that the Institutional Funds suffered the greatest damages by a considerable margin, the Institutional Funds' claimed \$3.7 million loss is illusory.

*4 The Institutional Funds have calculated their purported \$3.7 million loss based solely on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) methodology, ignoring the four-pronged inquiry set forth above. In this situation, FIFO grossly inflates the Institutional Funds' damages because the Institutional Funds are a "net seller" of Goodyear stock. The Institutional Funds sold 202,714 more Goodyear shares during the Class Period than they purchased, and received more profits from the sale of Goodyear stock during the Class Period than losses on the purchase of Goodyear securities.

Application of the four-factor test reveals FIFO's inaccuracy under the circumstances present here. The Institutional Funds purchased 188,675 shares of Goodyear stock during the Class Period and sold

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391,389 shares for a net sale of 202,714 shares. A determination of net expenditures, or total monies received from sales (\$12,910,959.72) of Goodyear stock less total funds expended on purchases (\$5,299,423.81), verifies that the Institutional Funds received a total of \$7,611,535.91 in net proceeds as a result of their high-volume Goodyear stock sales during the Class Period. The Institutional Funds may have benefitted from the alleged fraud in view of the fact that they earned millions of dollars on net sales of Goodyear stock during the Class Period. Accordingly, the Institutional Funds cannot establish the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class.

Similarly, Central States and Alaska both are net sellers. Central States profited in the amount of \$8,460,217.87 from its sales of Goodyear Stock during the Class Period. Although Alaska expended \$848,681.96 more than it received, its loss is not even half as great as that claimed by Capital Invest. As such, the Court rejects the Institutional Funds' contention that they have incurred a greater financial interest in this litigation than any other lead plaintiff applicant. See *Weisz v. Calpine Corp.*, No. C 02-1200 SBA, Slip. Op. At 12 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 19, 2002) (rejecting motion of lead plaintiff movant who was a net seller and, as a result, "may have actually profited, not suffered losses as a result of the allegedly artificially inflated stock price"); *Comdisco*, 150 F.Supp. at 945-46 (same). See also *In re McKesson HBOC Sec. Litig.*, 97 F.Supp.2d 993, 996-97 (N.D. Cal. 1999) ("[a] net purchaser will, presumably, have a greater interest in the litigation, because he or she was induced by the fraud to purchase shares, and has been left 'holding the bag' when the fraudulent inflation is revealed.")

Even if the Court ignores the flaws inherent in the Institutional Funds' FIFO methodology, the Institutional Funds are not an acceptable lead plaintiff as they may be subject to unique defenses. Alaska sold all of its shares of Goodyear stock prior to the disclosure of the alleged fraud. Likewise, it appears that Central States sold the significant majority of its shares prior to the disclosure. Thus, both Alaska and Central States undoubtedly will face motions to dismiss and/or for judgment as a matter of law on the ground that certain losses suffered by them were not caused by the alleged fraud. See *In re Cable & Wireless*, 217 F.R.D. at 379 (stating that the lead plaintiff movant who sold its shares "before the fraud ... was revealed to the public ... could not have suffered any loss as result of the Defendants' alleged fraud"); *In re MicroStrategy Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 110

F.Supp.2d 427, 437 n. 23 (E.D. Va. 2000) (holding that a lead plaintiff movant who sold shares in the subject company prior to the disclosure of the fraud also may be subject to "unique defenses based on the timing of its loss"); *Arduini/Mesina P'ship v. Nat'l Med. Fin. Servs. Corp.*, 74 F.Supp.2d 352, 361-62 (S.D.N.Y. 1999) (granting the defendants' motion to dismiss the plaintiff's claims where plaintiff sold all of his shares in the subject company prior to disclosure of the fraud and could not demonstrate that his damages were caused by the defendants' fraudulent statements).

*5 Moreover, the Institutional Funds' motion is denied in light of this Court's previous ruling that lead plaintiff movants must have a pre-existing relationship and basis for acting as a collective unit to qualify under the PSLRA as a viable lead plaintiff group. *In re Telxon*, 67 F.Supp.2d at 823 (O'Malley, J.). At the February 10, 2004 hearing, counsel for the Institutional Funds admitted that Central States and Alaska have no relationship pre-dating this litigation and were joined solely for the purpose of prosecuting this case. As such, the Institutional Funds have improperly aggregated their losses for the purpose of their lead plaintiff motion.

C. Capital Invest

Having denied the competing lead plaintiff applications, the Court now turns to Capital Invest's motion. Capital Invest has the most significant financial interest in this litigation. It purchased the most shares of Goodyear Stock during the Class Period and sold no shares, for a net purchase of 83,100 shares, a net expenditure of \$1,779,900.36, and a claimed loss of approximately \$1,200,000. Thus, Capital Invest is the presumptive lead plaintiff subject to the requirements of Rule 23 (discussed *infra*.)

Capital Invest's qualifications for lead plaintiff status are not susceptible to the Institutional Funds' challenges. The Court briefly examines said challenges below.

Contrary to the Institutional Funds' contention, Capital Invest possesses standing to assert securities fraud claims on behalf of the clients for whom it purchases and sells securities. A number of district courts have held that an investment manager has standing to bring securities claims on its clients' behalf if it is the clients' attorney-in-fact and has specific authority to recover its clients' investment

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losses. See, e.g., Weingberg v. Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 248, 255 (S.D.N.Y.2003) (stating that "when the investment advisor is also the attorney-in-fact for its clients with unrestricted decision making authority, the investment advisor is considered the 'purchaser' under the federal securities laws with standing to sue in its own name"); In re DaimlerChrysler AG Sec. Litig., 216 F.R.D. 291, 299 (D.Del.2003) (same); In re Rent-Way Sec. Litig., 218 F.R.D. 101, 106-09 (W.D.Pa.2003) (same); EZRA Charitable Trust v. Rent-Way, Inc., 136 F.Supp.2d 435 (W.D.Pa.2001) (same). Capital Invest's Declaration provides, "Capital Invest controls and manages the Funds and acts as attorney-in-fact for them. Capital Invest has full and complete authority to purchase and sell securities for each of the funds, and to institute legal action on their behalf." Based on the Declaration, the other evidence of record, and the caselaw cited above, Capital Invest has standing to bring suit and serve as lead plaintiff in this litigation.

The Institutional Funds' attempt to discredit Capital Invest on the ground that it is a non-domestic (Austrian) investment firm, and therefore an uncommitted and uncontrollable candidate for lead plaintiff, is insupportable. Capital Invest has testified in its Declaration and through its attorneys at the February 10, 2004 hearing that it has vast resources, that it is committed to working to obtain the best possible recovery for the plaintiff class, and that its representatives will be available in person to the Court. Further, the Institutional Funds' comment that Capital Invest is located almost 4500 miles from the Court lacks a measure of ingenuousness given that Alaska itself is located over 4000 miles away and has not provided the Court with any proof that it is willing to make its representatives available to the Court as necessary. Further, Austrians are, by treaty, expressly entitled to the same rights and privileges before United States courts as United States citizens. See Treaty between the United States of America and Austria of Friendship, Commerce and Consular Rights, June 19, 1928, U.S.-Aus., art. IX, 47 Stat. 1876, 1931 WL 29977 (U.S. Treaty). Even in the absence of a treaty, to exclude a foreign investor from lead plaintiff status on nationality grounds would defy the realities and complexities of today's increasingly global economy.

*6 For all of the foregoing reasons, Capital Invest has the greatest financial interest in this case and is the presumptive lead plaintiff subject to the strictures and requirements of Rule 23. The Court now turns to its Rule 23 analysis.

V. Adequacy & Typicality Under Rule 23(a)

Having determined that Capital Invest is the largest stakeholder does not end this Court's analysis. The PSLRA requires that the lead plaintiff also satisfy the requirements of Federal Rule 23.^{FN8} Here, the Court must find that Capital Invest would satisfy Rule 23's typicality and adequacy requirements before it can appoint Capital Invest as lead plaintiff.^{FN9} See In re Century Business Services Sec. Litig., 202 F.R.D. 532, 539 (N.D. Ohio 2001) (analyzing the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23 in a securities class action governed by the PSLRA); See also In re Telxon, 67 F.Supp.2d at 807 n. 10 (noting that class action analysis under Rule 23 in securities actions hinges on the typicality and adequacy requirements of the rule). Based on the evidence before it, this Court finds that Capital Invest would satisfy the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23.

FN8. Rule 23(a) provides that a party may serve as a class representative only if the following four requirements are satisfied:

(1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class, (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class, and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a).

FN9. Upon motion to certify this action as a class action, the Court will undertake the "rigorous analysis" necessary for a determination of whether the complete prerequisites of Rule 23 are met. In re American Medical Systems, Inc., 75 F.3d 1069, 1079 (6th Cir.1996) (citing General Tel. Co. v. Falcon, 457 U.S. 147, 161, 102 S.Ct. 2364, 72 L.Ed.2d 740 (1982)). As the Sixth Circuit has noted, "[a] class is not maintainable as a class action by virtue of its designation as such in the pleadings." *Id.* Because, in this case, a consolidated complaint has not been filed, the Court will reserve the issue of whether a class will be certified for a later date.

Typicality is governed by Rule 23(a)(3), which requires that the claims or defenses of the

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representative party be typical to the claims or defenses of the class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3). In other words, a sufficient relationship must exist between the injury to the named representative and the conduct affecting the class. In re American Medical Sys. Inc., 75 F.3d 1069, 1082 (6th Cir.1996) (quoting 1 Herbert B. Newberg & Alba Conte, Newberg on Class Actions, § 3-13, at 3-76 (3d ed.1992)). "Thus, a plaintiff's claim is typical if it arises from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other class members, and if his or her claims are based on the same legal theory." *Id.*

Capital Invest satisfies the typicality requirement. It seeks to represent a class of purchasers of Goodyear securities who have non-competing and non-conflicting interests. All class members purchased or acquired Goodyear stock during the Class Period and allegedly suffered a loss as the result of Defendants' conduct in connection therewith. As Capital Invest aptly notes, its claims deal with the same issues that pertain to the claims of the other class members. Namely, these issues are (1) whether Goodyear issued false and misleading statements during the Class period, (2) whether Defendants acted knowingly and/or with deliberate recklessness in issuing these allegedly false and misleading statements, (3) whether the market price of Goodyear stock was artificially inflated during the Class Period because of Defendants' allegedly wrongful conduct, and (4) whether the members of the class have sustained damages, and the amount of such damages. Because Capital Invest's claims deal with the same issues that pertain to the other class members, its interests are clearly aligned with those of the class. *Id.*

*7 Adequacy is governed by Rule 23(a)(4), which allows certification of a class only if the class representative will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4). The Sixth Circuit has set forth two criteria for determining adequacy. First, the class representative must have common interests with those unnamed class members. In re American Medical Systems, Inc., 75 F.3d 1069, 1082 (6th Cir.1996) (citation omitted). Second, it must appear that the class representative will vigorously prosecute the action with the assistance of qualified counsel. *Id.* According to the circuit, "[t]he adequate representation requirement overlaps with the typicality requirement because in the absence of typical claims, the class representative has no incentive to pursue the claims of the other class

members." *Id.*

Here, Capital Invest has common interests with the unnamed members of the class. Both Capital Invest and the other class members seek to recover their losses in connection with Defendants' alleged conduct. There is nothing to indicate that Capital Invest, as the class representative, would not vigorously prosecute the interests of the class. Clearly, Capital Invest has the need seek to recovery for its own losses. As such, there is no reason for this Court to find that Capital Invest would not just as vigorously prosecute and protect the interests of the class. As Capital Invest notes, there is no evidence before the Court of any antagonism between the interests of Capital Invest and the interests of the class members. Therefore, the Court sees no reason why Capital Invest cannot or would not vigorously prosecute the class members' claims.

There is also no evidence that the proposed lead counsel, Bernstein Litowitz, is not qualified counsel. In making this determination, the Court must consider whether the proposed counsel are qualified, experienced, and generally able to conduct the litigation. See Stout v. J.D. Byrider, 228 F.3d 709, 717 (6th Cir.2000). Having reviewed the resume of Bernstein Litowitz, proposed lead counsel in this action, the Court notes that the firm's litigation practice concentrates in the area of securities class actions. The firm also markets itself as "the nation's leading firm in representing institutional investors in securities fraud class action litigation." ^{FN10}

^{FN10}. See Capital Invest, Mot. to Consolidate at Exh. D.

A review of the firm's resume reveals that it is qualified in securities class action lawsuits. Other courts have found this as well. See, e.g. Piven v. Sykes Enterprises, Inc., 137 F.Supp.2d 1295, 1306 (M.D.Fla.2000) (finding Bernstein Litowitz experienced in litigating class action lawsuits); Osher v. Guess?, Inc., No. CV01-00871LGB, 2001 WL 861694 at *4 (C.D.Cal.2001) (unreported) (finding Bernstein Litowitz experienced in litigating complex securities actions after reviewing the firm's resume); Armour v. Network Assoc., Inc., 171 F.Supp.2d 1044, 1052 (noting that "[t]he firm resume of Bernstein Litowitz reveals its competence to provide class representation in a securities class action."). In fact, the firm's literature boasts numerous statements from various district court judges across the country who have commented on the outstanding performance of

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Bernstein Litowitz in various actions where excellent results have been achieved for plaintiff class members. On the whole, there is nothing that would indicate to this Court that Bernstein Litowitz is anything but qualified, experienced, and generally able to conduct the litigation in this case.

VI. Conclusion

*8 For the reasons stated above, Capital Invest's motion for appointment as lead plaintiff is granted. In keeping, its request appoint the law firm of Bernstein Litowitz as lead counsel and the law firm of Climaco Lefkowitz as liaison counsel is granted. All other pending motions are hereby denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

N.D. Ohio, 2004.

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In re Nortel Networks Corp. Securities Litigation
S.D.N.Y.,2003.

Only the Westlaw citation is currently available.

United States District Court,S.D. New York.
In re NORTEL NETWORKS CORP. SECURITIES
LITIGATION
No. 01 Civ. 1855(RMB).

Sept. 8, 2003.

Investor, on behalf of putative class, brought securities fraud action against corporation and its officers. Investor moved for class certification. The District Court, [Berman](#), J., held that: (1) investor satisfied prerequisites to class certification; (2) common questions of law or fact predominated; (3) class action was superior method of adjudicating controversy; and (4) court had subject matter jurisdiction over foreign investors for purposes of class certification.

Motion granted.

West Headnotes

[1] Federal Civil Procedure 170A **187**

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Investor seeking class certification in securities fraud action satisfied numerosity prerequisite, inasmuch as class likely numbered in the hundreds or thousands. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(a\)\(1\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[2] Federal Civil Procedure 170A **187**

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Securities fraud case satisfied commonality prerequisite to class certification, given existence of such common legal and factual issues as whether defendants violated federal securities laws through acts and conduct alleged and whether corporation issued false and misleading statements during class period. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(a\)\(2\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[3] Federal Civil Procedure 170A **187**

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Investor seeking class certification in securities fraud action satisfied typicality prerequisite to certification, despite contention that investor's use of indexed trading strategy did not involve reliance on integrity of market and would give rise to atypical defenses, given that reliance was clearly alleged and jury could conclude that pursuing index strategy entailed reliance. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(a\)\(3\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[4] Federal Civil Procedure 170A **187**

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)
Investor satisfied prerequisite to class certification addressing adequacy of representation in securities fraud action, in that investor's claims appeared to be in harmony with those of other members of proposed class, investor took several significant "hands on" steps to prosecute case, and its counsel was qualified to pursue securities fraud litigation. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(a\)\(4\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[5] Federal Civil Procedure 170A ↪187

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)
Common questions of law or fact predominated in securities fraud action, supporting investor's motion for class certification, notwithstanding defendants' contention that investor was not entitled to rely on fraud-on-the-market theory of reliance because market was not efficiently driven by fundamental value. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(b\)\(3\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[6] Federal Civil Procedure 170A ↪187

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)
Class action was superior method of resolving securities fraud litigation, supporting class certification, given that claims likely would be numerous but would, in many instances, be too small to pur-

sue individually, and that multiple lawsuits would be inefficient. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23\(b\)\(3\)](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

[7] Federal Civil Procedure 170A ↪187

170A Federal Civil Procedure

170AII Parties

170AII(D) Class Actions

170AII(D)3 Particular Classes Represented

170Ak187 k. Stockholders, Investors, and Depositors. [Most Cited Cases](#)
For purposes of class certification in securities fraud action, district court had subject matter jurisdiction over claims of foreign buyers who acquired corporation's stock on foreign exchange, given allegations that, during class period, corporation and its officers extended vendor financing to United States customers which they knew to be uncredit-worthy so as to artificially inflate corporation's revenues, and thus engaged in substantial fraudulent activity in United States directly causing losses to foreign investors, and given court's ability to shape class more precisely to fit issues of case as they emerged during litigation. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, §§ 10(b), 20(a), as amended, [15 U.S.C.A. §§ 78j\(b\), 78t\(a\)](#); [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5](#); [Fed.Rules Civ.Proc.Rule 23](#), [28 U.S.C.A.](#)

DECISION AND ORDER ON CLASS CERTIFICATION

BERMAN, J.

***1 THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: ALL CLASS ACTIONS**

I. Background

In this action filed on March 2, 2001, the Trustees of the Ontario Public Employees' Union Pension Trust Fund ("OPTrust"), on behalf of a putative class, allege that Nortel Networks Corporation ("Nortel"), John Andrew Roth, Nortel's Chief Exec-

utive Officer and President during the Class Period, Clarence Chandran, Nortel's Chief Operating Officer during the Class Period, and Frank Dunn, Nortel's Chief Financial Officer during the Class Period (collectively, "Defendants") violated Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5, and Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78t(a) by, among other things, "knowingly or recklessly issu[ing] a stream of materially false and misleading representations to the investing public." (Second Consolidated and Amended Class Action Complaint ("Complaint") ¶ 3, at 2.) ^{FN1}

^{FN1}. For a more detailed recitation of the facts, see this Court's Order resolving Defendants' motion to dismiss the Complaint against Nortel, reported at 238 F.Supp.2d 613 (S.D.N.Y.2003).

OPTrust moves to certify a class "consisting of all persons and entities who, during the period October 24, 2000 and continuing through and including February 15, 2001, purchased Nortel common stock or call options or sold Nortel put options, and who suffered damages thereby, including, but not limited to, those persons who traded in Nortel Securities on the New York Stock Exchange and/or the Toronto Stock Exchange." (Mem. of Law in Supp. of Lead Pl.'s Motion for Class Certification ("Pl.Br.") at 7.) OPTrust argues that "this action meets all of the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for the maintenance of a class action" (Pl. Br. at 2) and, among other things, that all members of the class relied upon Defendants' allegedly "deceptive and materially false and misleading statements to the investing public." (Compl. ¶ 198, at 84; *see id.* ¶ 203, at 86 ("Lead Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, relying on the materially false and misleading statements described herein, which the defendants made, issued or caused to be disseminated, or relying upon the integrity of the market, traded in Nortel Securities at prices artificially inflated or distorted by defendants' wrongful conduct.") Defendants oppose class certification, arguing that (1)

OPTrust is atypical because it is subject to unique defenses; (2) OPTrust is an inadequate representative because it has ceded control of the litigation to its lawyers; (3) common questions of law or fact do not predominate "because plaintiffs cannot rely upon the fraud-on-the-market theory of reliance." (Def. Mem. of Law in Opp'n to Lead Pl.'s Motion for Class Certification ("Def.Br.") at 1-12); and (4) the Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over foreign purchasers of Nortel Securities. For the reasons set forth below, the Court grants Plaintiff's motion for class certification and appoints OPTrust as Class representative.

II. Standard of Review

*2 To succeed on a motion to certify a class, plaintiffs first must satisfy the prerequisites listed in Rule 23(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: "(1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class, (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class, and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a); *In re AMF Bowling Sec. Litig.*, 99 Civ. 3023, 2002 WL 461513, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Mar.26, 2002). "Second, plaintiffs must show that the putative class falls within one of the three categories set forth in Rule 23(b)." ^{FN2}*Id.*

^{FN2}. Plaintiffs seek certification under Rule 23(b)(3), which requires that the Court find "that questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy." Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(3).

"[T]he Second Circuit has directed district courts to apply Rule 23 according to a liberal rather than a restrictive interpretation and has explicitly noted its preference for class certification in securities cases." *Maywalt v. Parker & Parsley Petro-*

leum Co., 147 F.R.D. 51, 54 (S.D.N.Y.1993); *see In re Blech Sec. Litig.*, 187 F.R.D. 97, 102 (S.D.N.Y.1999) (“Class action treatment of related claims is particularly appropriate when plaintiffs seek redress for violations of the securities laws....”).

“Although a court must conduct a rigorous inquiry in determining whether the requirements of Rule 23 have been satisfied, it must accept plaintiffs’ allegations as true and refrain from conducting an examination of the merits when determining the propriety of class certification.” *In re AMF*, 2002 WL 461513, at *3 (citations omitted); *see Caridad v. Metro-North Commuter R.R.*, 191 F.3d 283, 291 (2d Cir.1999); *Shelter Realty Corp. v. Allied Maintenance Corp.*, 574 F.2d 656, 661 n. 15 (2d Cir.1978).

III. Analysis

The Court has reviewed, among other things, Pl. Br., dated March 21, 2003; Def. Br., dated May 30, 2003, which attaches the (expert) reports of Professor Paul A. Gompers and Professor Christopher M. James; “Lead Plaintiff’s Reply Memorandum of Law in Further Support of its Motion for Class Certification,” dated August 1, 2003 (“Pl.Reply”), which attaches the (expert) reports of Professor Anthony Saunders, Blaine F. Nye, Ph.D., and Professor Sanjai Bhagat; and the Complaint, dated January 18, 2002. The Court heard oral argument on September 3, 2003.

A. *Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(1)*-Numerosity

[1] According to OPTrust, approximately 3,006,967,918 shares of Nortel were outstanding during the class period. (Pl. Br. at 7; *see* Compl. ¶ 39, at 15.) OPTrust estimates that “there are, at a minimum, thousands of members of the Class who purchased Nortel common stock during the Class Period.” (Compl. ¶ 39, at 15.) Defendants do not dispute that the proposed class is sufficiently numerous and that joinder would be impractical. (*Accord* Def. Br.) Indeed, the class likely will number

in the hundreds or thousands. *See Maywalt*, 147 F.R.D. at 55; *see also In re Frontier Ins. Group, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 172 F.R.D. 31, 40 (E.D.N.Y.1997) (“ ‘In securities fraud actions brought against publicly owned and nationally listed corporations, the numerosity requirement may be satisfied by a showing that a large number of shares were outstanding and traded during the relevant period.’ ” (citation omitted)); *Dietrich v. Bauer*, 192 F.R.D. 119, 123 (S.D.N.Y.2000).

B. *Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(2)*-Commonality

*3 [2] OPTrust asserts that common legal and factual issues here include, among others, “whether defendants violated the federal securities laws by the acts and conduct alleged” and “whether Nortel issued false and misleading statements during the Class Period.” (Pl. Br. at 10.) Defendants do not dispute commonality. (*Accord* Def. Br.) “The commonality requirement is met if plaintiffs’ grievances share a common question of law or of fact.” *Robinson v. Metro-North Commuter R.R.*, 267 F.3d 147, 155 (2d Cir.2001) (citation omitted). “The commonality requirement of Rule 23(a)(2) has been applied permissively by courts in the context of securities fraud litigation.” *In re Blech*, 187 F.R.D. at 104; *see also In re Frontier*, 172 F.R.D. at 40.

C. *Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(3)*-Typicality

[3] OPTrust’s claims, as well as those of the other members of the proposed class, arise out of alleged misrepresentations by Defendants concerning Nortel. (*See* Pl. Br. at 10-11.) OPTrust argues, among other things, that its “use of an indexed trading strategy [does not] give[] rise to atypical defenses” because “indexed trading typifies its reliance on the integrity of the market.” (Pl. Reply at 5.) Moreover, OPTrust alleges specifically that it relied on Defendants’ alleged misrepresentations. (*See, e.g.*, Compl. ¶ 203, at 86 (“Lead Plaintiff ... relying on the materially false and misleading statements described herein, ... traded in Nortel Securities” (emphasis added))); *see also In re Avon Sec. Litig.*, 91 Civ. 2287, 1998 WL 834366, at *5 (S.D.N.Y.

Nov.30, 1998) (“Decisions regarding class certification are to be based on the allegations set forth in the complaint, which are accepted as true.”).^{FN3}

FN3. In addition, OPTrust argues that “[c]ourts have repeatedly held that additional purchases after the price of the security drops as a result of corrective disclosure do *not* give rise to atypical defenses.”(Pl. Reply at 5-6 (citing cases)); *see, e.g., In re Frontier*, 172 F.R.D. at 42 (concluding that a plaintiff’s purchase of defendant’s stock after the disclosure of alleged misrepresentations “has no bearing on whether or not she relied on the integrity of the market during the class period” and did not defeat typicality).

Defendants dispute OPTrust’s claim that it satisfies the typicality requirement because “ ‘class certification is inappropriate where a putative class representative is subject to unique defenses which threaten to become the focus of the litigation .’ ” (Def. Br. at 12-13 (citing, among other opinions, *Gary Plastic Packaging Corp. v. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.*, 903 F.2d 176, 180 (2d Cir.1990)).) Defendants argue that, unlike the putative class described in the Complaint, OPTrust “did not rely on the ‘integrity’ of Nortel’s stock price” when OPTrust purchased Nortel stock. (Def. Br. at 13 (“[OPTrust’s] trading strategy ran directly counter to market sentiment because its investment advisors concluded that the stock was highly ‘overvalued’ and indeed saw the emergence of a ‘bubble’ far earlier than the rest of the market. Yet, OPTrust bought Nortel stock largely because it was tracking an index, not because it was lulled into believing that Nortel was trading at ‘a fair market price.’ ”).)^{FN4}

FN4. Defendants also argue that OPTrust’s purchase of Nortel stock “well after the alleged ‘fraud’ was ‘exposed’ ” militates against typicality. (*Id.* at 16.)

“[T]he claims of the class representatives [must] be typical of those of the class, and ‘is satis-

fied when each class member’s claim arises from the same course of events, and each class member makes similar legal arguments to prove the defendant’s liability.” ’ *Marisol A. v. Giuliani*, 126 F.3d 372, 376 (2d Cir.1997) (per curiam). Because, among other things, “reliance” is clearly alleged, (*see, e.g.,* Compl. ¶ 203, at 86), and because a jury may conclude that pursuing an index strategy entails reliance (*see* Pl. Reply at 5 (“Indexed trading is the ultimate acknowledgment that the market is efficient because it cannot be beat.”)), OPTrust satisfies the typicality requirement. *See In re Blech*, 187 F.R.D. at 106 (“[T]he typicality requirement is satisfied because, as set forth in the Complaint, the Plaintiffs’ claims of fraud arise from the same course of conduct.”).

*4 Moreover, “[t]he rule barring certification of plaintiffs subject to unique defenses is not ‘rigidly applied in this Circuit.” *In re Frontier*, 172 F.R.D. at 41;*see also In re Gaming Lottery Sec. Litig.*, 58 F.Supp.2d 62, 72 (S.D.N.Y.1999) (“Because a person is ineligible to represent a class of securities purchasers only if he ‘clearly did not rely upon either the misleading financials *or* on the integrity of the market price or information, [Plaintiff] remains qualified to serve as a class representative.”(citation omitted)); *see also In re Indep. Energy Holdings PLC Sec. Litig.*, 210 F.R.D. 476, 481 (S.D.N.Y.2002) (While the extent of any non-reliance on [plaintiff’s] part will certainly be a fact question to be decided at trial, it is unlikely to significantly shift the focus of the litigation to the detriment of the absent class members.”).

D. *Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(4)-Adequate Representative*

[4] Defendants argue that OPTrust is “a wholly inadequate class representative, for it is a reluctant party that has ceded control over the litigation to lawyers.”(Def. Br. at 17.) OPTrust responds that its “interests are not antagonistic to those of the Class” and that the “interests of the Class will be protected and advanced by OPTrust because its claims and interests are coextensive with those of the absent Class members.”(Pl. Br. at 12.) In addition,

OPTrust asserts that it has been “zealously representing the interests of the proposed Class by, among other things, retaining experienced counsel and devoting substantial time and effort to the prosecution of this case.”(*Id.*) “Representatives of OPTrust met with senior attorneys from Milberg Weiss on three separate occasions to discuss the substantive allegations, the procedural posture of the litigation, the responsibilities of a class representative and OPTrust’s potential interest in stepping into a lead role.”(Pl. Reply at 7.) “Independent from the lawyers, OPTrust’s Board of Trustees formed a Nortel Class Action Subcommittee ... to ‘monitor developments, develop overall strategic direction and report to the Board in respect to the class action lawsuit’ and “[a]t a Special Board of Trustees meeting on December 18, 2001-with the advice and assistance of an independent consultant-the Board passed a resolution confirming its desire to seek the role of Lead Plaintiff.”(*Id.*; *see also id.* at 8 n. 14 (“[W]e have a number of responsibilities, one of them being to manage the litigation ... [and] we have set up a subcommittee to do that.”(quoting the deposition testimony of OPTrust’s Chief Investment Officer, Morgan Eastman)).)

Under [Fed.R.Civ.P. 23\(a\)\(4\)](#), “adequacy of representation entails inquiry as to whether: 1) plaintiff’s interests are antagonistic to the interests of other members of the class and 2) plaintiff’s attorneys are qualified, experienced and able to conduct litigation.”*Baffa v. Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Sec. Corp.*, 222 F.3d 52, 60 (2d Cir.2000). OPTrust satisfies the adequacy requirement. Its claims appear to be in harmony with those of the other members of the proposed class; it has taken several significant “hands on” steps to prosecute this case; and its counsel, Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP, is clearly qualified to pursue this sort of litigation. *See also id.* at 61.

E. [Fed.R.Civ.P. 23\(b\)\(3\)](#)

Predominance of Common Questions of Law or Fact

*5 [5] Defendants argue in their brief that

“because plaintiffs cannot rely upon the fraud-on-the-market theory of reliance” common questions of law or fact do not predominate over individual questions. (Def. Br. at 1); *see also Crommer Fin. Ltd. v. Berger*, 205 F.R.D. 113, 130 n. 21 (S.D.N.Y.2001) (citing *In re Towers Fin. Corp. Noteholders Litig.*, 93 Civ. 0810, 1995 WL 571888, at *21 (S.D.N.Y. Sept.20, 1995), which states: “The [fraud-on-the-market theory] ‘presumes that the market is a ‘transmission belt which efficiently translates all information concerning a security into a price. In other words, it presumes the operation of an efficient market.’ ”)). Defendants argue that “[t]he market was not efficiently driven by fundamental value, and that is the death knell to application of the fraud-on-the-market theory.” (Def. Br. at 12; *see id.* at 2 (“Without resort to the presumption, a class cannot be certified since individual claims of reliance would have to be proven and would overwhelm the common issues.”)). Defendants urge the Court, preliminarily and by a separate proceeding, to “determine whether the plaintiffs are entitled to rely on the [fraud-on-the-market] presumption for purposes of class certification,” (*id.* at 4 & n. 3 (“The availability of the fraud-on-the-market presumption is a legal issue that must be resolved by the Court for purposes of deciding class certification.”)) citing several cases (from other Circuits) for this proposition. *Cammer v. Bloom*, 711 F.Supp. 1264, 1290 (D.N.J.1989), *Szabo v. Bridgeport Machs., Inc.*, 249 F.3d 672, 677 (7th Cir.2001), and *O’Neil v. Appel*, 165 F.R.D. 479, 496-505 (W.D.Mich.1996).^{FN5}

FN5. Defendants submitted a letter to the Court, dated August 12, 2003, seeking to postpone a decision on OPTrust’s motion for class certification so that the parties may conduct more “[e]xpert discovery followed by a possible hearing” on these issues. OPTrust responded with a letter to the Court, dated August 19, 2003, arguing “[t]he Court can and should decide the motion on the basis of the admittedly ‘substantial’ record already before it.”The Court agrees with OPTrust on this issue. That is, the parties’ thoughtful and compre-

hensive briefs on the motion to certify the class, which included submission of expert reports from Defendants and OPTrust, and helpful oral argument, have afforded the parties a full opportunity to address all salient points and authorities. See *Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin*, 417 U.S. 156, 177, 94 S.Ct. 2140, 40 L.Ed.2d 732 (1974) (“We find nothing in either the language or history of Rule 23 that gives a court any authority to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the merits of a suit in order to determine whether it may be maintained as a class action.”); *Baffa*, 222 F.3d at 58 (“[A] motion for class certification is not an occasion for examination of the merits of the case.... ‘Nothing in either the language or history of Rule 23... gives a court any authority to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the merits of a suit in order to determine whether it may be maintained as a class action.’” (citations omitted)). And, Defendants themselves have acknowledged that the existing class certification record is substantial as recently as July 29, 2003. (July 29, 2003 Tr. at 2 (“We have submitted a detailed brief, two expert reports, and I anticipate the plaintiffs will be doing the same. It’s a pretty substantial record.”).)

OPTrust contends that “it enjoys the benefit of the fraud on the market evidentiary rule, pursuant to which, in a Rule 10b-5 action against a public company such as Nortel, whose shares are traded in an open, well-developed market, it is presumed that (a) the alleged misrepresentations, so long as they are material, will inflate the value of the Company’s shares and (b) plaintiff and all members of the Class relied upon the integrity of the market for those shares” and that “reliance is a common issue in this action.” (Pl. Br. at 14.) OPTrust also argues “‘[w]hether or not a market for a stock is open and efficient is a question of fact’ that must wait for resolution at trial.” (Pl. Reply at 1 (quoting *RMED Int’l Inc. v. Sloan’s Supermarkets*, 94 Civ. 5587, 2002 WL 31780188 (S.D.N.Y. Dec.11, 2002))); see also *In re Laser Arms Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 794 F.Supp.

475, 490 (S.D.N.Y.1989) (“Whether in fact Laser Arms traded in an efficient market is a question of fact. Therefore, resolution of that issue must await presentation of further proof at trial.”), *aff’d*, 969 F.2d 15 (2d Cir.1992). OPTrust argues that “Defendants’ attempt to transform class certification into a complicated battle of the experts is precisely what the Supreme Court sought to preclude by barring ‘preliminary inquiry into the merits of a suit in order to determine whether it may be maintained as a class action.’” (Pl. Reply at 1 (quoting *Eisen*, 417 U.S. at 177).)

*6 The parties have been afforded “substantial” opportunity to present their respective points of view.^{FN6} See *In re Frontier*, 172 F.R.D. at 42 (“For the purposes of this motion [for class certification], the court assumes the market for Frontier stock is an efficient one incorporating all public information about the company.”); *Crommer*, 205 F.R.D. at 133 (“While [defendant] has identified evidence and arguments it may use at trial to rebut the presumption, it remains true that it is logical and fair to presume reliance here.”); see also *Baffa*, 222 F.3d at 58 (“[A] motion for class certification is not an occasion for examination of the merits of the case.... ‘Nothing in either the language or history of Rule 23... gives a court any authority to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the merits of a suit in order to determine whether it may be maintained as a class action.’” (citations omitted)); *In re Frontier*, 172 F.R.D. at 39 (“In evaluating a motion for class certification, the court accepts as true the substantive allegations in the complaint and does not conduct even a preliminary inquiry into the merits of the case.” (citing *Eisen*, 417 U.S. at 177-78); *In re Blech*, 187 F.R.D. at 107 (“[W]hen determining whether common questions predominate courts focus on the liability issue ... and if the liability issue is common to the class, common questions are held to predominate over individual questions.” (citation omitted)).

FN6. See also *supra* note 5.

Superiority of Class Action

[6] The Court considers the following factors in making the determination of superiority: “(A) the interest of members of the class in individually controlling the prosecution or defenses of separate actions; (B) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already commenced by or against members of the class; (C) the desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the claims in the particular forum; (D) the difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of a class action.” *Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(3)*.

Here, a class action is superior to other alternatives. The claims likely will be numerous but, in many instances, too small to pursue individually and, even if individual plaintiffs chose to pursue the action, multiple lawsuits would be inefficient. *See In re Blech*, 187 F.R.D. at 107 (“In general, securities suits such as this easily satisfy the superiority requirement of Rule 23. Most violations of the federal securities laws, such as those alleged in the Complaint, inflict economic injury on large numbers of geographically dispersed persons such that the cost of pursuing individual litigation to seek recovery is often not feasible. Multiple lawsuits would be costly and inefficient, and the exclusion of class members who cannot afford separate representation would neither be ‘fair’ nor an adjudication of their claims.”).

F. Subject Matter Jurisdiction over Foreign Purchasers

*7 [7] Defendants argue that, even if the Court certifies a class in this action, the Court “should exclude foreign purchasers of Nortel stock.” (Def. Br. at 20.) Citing *Bersch v. Drexel Firestone, Inc.*, 519 F.2d 974, 985-90 (2d Cir.1975), Defendants argue that “[w]hen foreign purchasers on a foreign exchange seek to rely upon the Exchange Act, the Second Circuit has held that our securities laws should not be exported to foreign countries that are perfectly capable of policing the companies that reside within them.” (Def. Br. at 21.) Defendants emphasize Nortel's connection to Canada. (*Id.* at 22 (“The essence of the fraud alleged here is that

Nortel's senior management all based in Canada made a series of representations, which materially overstated the Company's earnings.”; “All of the allegedly fraudulent statements were disseminated from Nortel's headquarters in Ontario. Moreover, all challenged accounting decisions likewise were made in Canada.” (footnote omitted)).) Defendants also argue that “as a matter of international comity, accepting jurisdiction over Canadian purchasers would overlap and supplant at least three pending Canadian class actions brought on behalf of such purchasers in the courts of Canada. Moreover, issues of judicial administration would be a nightmare....” (*Id.* at 24-25.) ^{FN7}

^{FN7}. Relatedly, the Court received a letter, dated August 25, 2003 from counsel for plaintiffs in a Canada-wide class action entitled *Law, et al. v. Nortel Networks Corp., et al.*, 02-CL-4605 (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), which notes that “the other two cases are, to the best of our knowledge, limited to the Provinces of British Columbia and Quebec” and that “the Canadian courts are the proper place for determining the claims of Canadian citizens who purchased Nortel shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange.” (Letter to the Court from Joel P. Rochon, dated Aug. 25, 2003 at 2-3.) The Court received a letter in response, dated September 2, 2003 from counsel for OPTrust, which argues, among other things, that “there is nothing in the applicable case law, or any proposition of international law identified by defendants, that would bar the extraterritorial application of the federal securities laws in this case ... provided that the applicable Second Circuit standards are met, which they are.” (Letter to the Court from Steven G. Schulman, dated Sept. 2, 2003 at 2.)

OPTrust counters that “defendants' substantial activities in the United States are much more than merely preparatory to the fraud and thus favor a finding of subject-matter jurisdiction.” (Pl. Reply at 8-9.) “The vast preponderance of customers and po-

tential customers with whom Nortel did business during the Class Period were fiber-optic cable networks and internet service providers overwhelmingly located in the U.S.” and “Nortel used its artificially inflated stock to fund an aggressive growth-by-acquisition strategy, then misled investors by failing to write down the goodwill associated with its numerous U.S. acquisitions despite substantial declines in their value.... Many of these acquisitions involved properties in the U.S.” (*Id.* at 9.) In addition, OPTrust argues that the mere existence of Canadian lawsuits should not persuade the Court to deny certification. (*Id.* at 9 n. 15. (“Defendants offer no information about the nature or status of these actions, and fail to mention important differences between U.S. and Canadian securities law—most notably the unavailability of the fraud-on-the-market-theory to Canadian plaintiffs. This Court should not grant defendants’ request to avoid application of the securities laws to persons executing trades in Canada, given that Second Circuit standards for extending those laws to foreign investors in this case are satisfied.”).)

“Since the Securities Exchange Act is silent as to its extraterritorial application, courts have developed two tests for determining the subject matter jurisdiction over foreign transactions.” *Nathan Gordon Trust v. Northgate Exploration, Ltd.*, 148 F.R.D. 105, 108 (S.D.N.Y.1993). “Under the ‘conduct’ test, a federal court has subject matter jurisdiction if the defendant’s conduct in the United States was more than merely preparatory to the fraud, and particular acts or culpable failures to act within the United States directly caused losses to foreign investors abroad. A federal court also has jurisdiction under the ‘effects’ test where illegal activity abroad causes a ‘substantial effect’ within the United States.” *Id.* (quoting *Alfadda v. Fenn*, 935 F.2d 475, 478 (2d Cir.1991).

*8 Defendants activities in the United States satisfy the test for subject matter jurisdiction. Among other things, OPTrust alleges that “defendants were consummating risky vendor financing deals in an effort to boost reported ‘revenues’ throughout the Class Period.” (Compl. ¶

64, at 26.) According to OPTrust, Defendants were extending vendor financing to “numerous U.S. customers that defendants knew to be uncreditworthy, so as to artificially inflate the Company’s revenues.” (Pl. Reply at 9); see *In re Gaming Lottery Sec. Litig.*, 58 F.Supp.2d 62, 73-75 (S.D.N.Y.1999) (“Subject matter jurisdiction is thus supported by substantial fraudulent activity in the United States directly causing harm abroad, the manner in which the same fraudulent scheme allegedly straddled both sides of the border, and the degree of economic activity connecting [defendant] to the United States.”). The Court also notes, in finding subject matter jurisdiction, that “it is well established that a court can certify a class while reserving the right to shape the class more precisely to fit the issues of the case as those emerge during the litigation.” *Langner v. Brown*, 95 Civ.1981, 1996 WL 709757, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Dec.10, 1996).

IV. Conclusion

For the reasons stated herein, the Court grants OPTrust’s motion to certify the class.

S.D.N.Y.,2003.

In re Nortel Networks Corp. Securities Litigation
Not Reported in F.Supp.2d, 2003 WL 22077464
(S.D.N.Y.)

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

IN RE:

WILLIAMS SECURITIES
LITIGATION

Case Nos. 02-CV-72-H(M) ✓
Lead Case

FILED

JUL 8 2002 SA

Phil Lombardi, Clerk
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the motions to appoint lead plaintiff and lead counsel, filed on April 1, 2002 (Docket Nos. 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, 26, 34, 35, 38, 39). The Court issued an order on June 21, 2002 (Docket No. 123) consolidating the four remaining related cases with Case No. 02-CV-72-H(M) and bifurcating the action into the following subclasses: purchasers of Williams Communications Group, Inc. ("WCG") securities and purchasers of Williams Companies, Inc. ("WMB") securities. As contemplated by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "PSLRA"), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(ii) and 15 U.S.C. § 77z-1(a)(3)(B)(ii), which requires the Court to appoint the most adequate plaintiff as the lead plaintiff for the consolidated action "as soon as practicable" after the decision on the motions to consolidate is rendered, the Court will now address the motions for appointment of lead plaintiff and lead counsel.

The Court has carefully reviewed the briefs submitted by the five lead plaintiff movants, and, for the reasons set forth below, hereby orders the appointment of Alex Mervelo as the lead plaintiff for the subclass of purchasers of WCG securities and HGK Asset Management ("HGK")

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as lead plaintiff for the subclass of purchasers of WMB securities. The Court further orders the appointment of Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP ("Milberg Weiss"), Weiss & Yourman, and Morrel West Saffa Craig & Hicks Inc ("Morrel West") as counsel for the subclass of purchasers of WCG securities and Schoengold & Sporn and the Seymour Law Firm as counsel for the subclass of purchasers of WMB securities.

I

The PSLRA sets forth detailed procedures for the appointment of lead plaintiff(s) in a private class action arising under the securities laws. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a).¹ Among those procedures is the requirement that the named plaintiff in the action must file notice within twenty days of filing suit to inform potential class members of their right to move to be appointed lead plaintiff. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i). Such notice must be published "in a widely circulated national business-oriented publication or wire service." *Id.* Not later than sixty days after the date on which this notice is published, any member of the putative class may move the court to be appointed lead plaintiff of the class. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(ii).

The PSLRA then requires the Court to appoint a lead plaintiff for the class after determining which applicant is "most capable of adequately representing the interests of the class members." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B). In determining which applicant should be named lead plaintiff, the Court must accept the presumption that the most adequate plaintiff in any private action is the person(s) who: (1) has either filed the complaint or made a motion in response to a

¹ The PSLRA amended both the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") by adding identical sections to both acts, Section 27 to the Securities Act and Section 21D to the Exchange Act. See 15 U.S.C. § 77z-1(a)(3) and 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3). For convenience, the Court will cite only to the Exchange Act when referring to the PSLRA.

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notice; (2) in the determination of the Court, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class; and (3) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I).

Under the PSLRA, the Court's determination of the "most adequate plaintiff" may be rebutted only upon proof that the presumptive lead plaintiff either: (1) will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; or (2) is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

II

A. Appointment of Lead Plaintiff for the WCG Subclass

On January 29, 2002, in accordance with the PSLRA, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(A)(i)(I), the first notice of the pendency of this class action was published in a national business-oriented wire service. See Press Release, Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP, Milberg Weiss Announces Class Action Suit Against Williams Companies, Inc. and Williams Communications Group, Inc. (Jan. 29, 2002) (Seymour Decl. Ex. A). Within sixty days following the date of that publication, on April 1, 2002, lead plaintiff applications were submitted by the following individuals or groups, now seeking to be appointed lead plaintiff for the subclass of purchasers of WCG securities ("WCG Subclass"): Mr. Meruelo;² Blaine Watkins, Bruce and Kathleen Smith and Bruce Russell ("the Watkins Group"); and Market Street Securities, Inc. ("Market Street").³

² The lead plaintiff application of Mr. Meruelo was originally submitted on behalf of Norman H. Kirkendoll, Michael Ewing, Alex Meruelo and Melis Paronayn ("the Meruelo Group"). In its June 6, 2002 memorandum, however, the Meruelo Group stated that, in light of the bifurcation of the action into subclasses of WMB and WCG securities purchasers, the group sought to put forward only Alex Meruelo as the proposed lead plaintiff.

³ Douglas E. Miller and Carol Moore, purchasers of WMB and WCG securities, jointly filed a motion seeking to be appointed lead plaintiff on April 1, 2002 (Docket Nos. 22 and 23). Mr. Miller and Ms. Moore have not submitted the additional briefing ordered by the Court to

Because all three lead plaintiff motions were submitted within the time period established by the PSLRA, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i)(II), all applicants have satisfied the first requirement of the statutory test for determining the presumptive "most adequate plaintiff."

The Court must next determine the person or group of persons who "has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb). The PSLRA, however, does not specify the procedure for the Court to follow in making this determination. See In re Enron Sec. Litig., 2002 WL 530588, at *7 (S.D. Tex. 2002); see also In re Nice Sys. Sec. Litig., 188 F.R.D. 206, 217 (D. N.J. 1999). Several courts addressing this question have applied the four-factor test articulated by the district court in Lax v. First Merchs. Acceptance Corp., 1997 WL 461036, at *5 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 1997). See, e.g., Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *7; In re Olsten Corp. Sec. Litig., 3 F. Supp. 2d 286, 295 (E.D.N.Y. 1998); Nice Sys., 188 F.R.D. 206, 217 (D.N.J. 1999). The four Lax factors used to determine the largest financial interest are: (1) the number of shares purchased; (2) the number of net shares purchased; (3) the total net funds expended by the plaintiffs during the class period; and (4) the approximate losses suffered by the plaintiffs. Lax, 1997 WL 461036, at *5. "These factors are useful because they look to relatively objective indicators, such as the number of shares purchased or sold, rather than to the ultimate question of damages." Aronson v. McKesson HBOC, Inc., 79 F. Supp. 2d 1146 (N.D. Cal. 1999). Notably, one of the WCG Subclass movants in this case, despite the Court's request at the April 12, 2002 hearing for clear and specific information regarding loss calculations, failed to provide information stated in these terms. Accordingly, the Court has

support their motion, and, accordingly, the Court deems the motion to have been withdrawn. Westmonte Plaza Inc. (Docket No. 28) and Darryl Abramowitz (Docket Nos. 30 and 31) also filed lead plaintiff applications on behalf of WCG securities purchasers. Both applications, however, were formally withdrawn and, therefore, will not be addressed here.

focused its analysis on the movants' claimed losses, the only common denominator addressed by each of the WCG Subclass movants.⁴

On the basis of the losses claimed by the lead plaintiff movants, Mr. Meruelo appears to be the lead plaintiff applicant with the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation. The losses claimed by the respective movants are as follows:

<u>Lead Plaintiff Movant</u>	<u>Claimed Losses</u>
Alex Meruelo	\$3,905,136.80 ⁵
Market Street	\$2,300,000.00
The Watkins Group	\$ 224,000.00

Market Street argues, however, that Mr. Meruelo's losses are overstated and that instead Market Street is the movant with the largest financial interest. Market Street attacks Mr. Meruelo's loss calculation on several grounds, claiming it is overstated because: (1) Mr. Meruelo made errors in his certifications and loss calculations; (2) Mr. Meruelo improperly

⁴ The Court recognizes its obligation under the PSLRA to "determine" the plaintiff with the "largest financial interest." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb) (requiring that the "most adequate plaintiff" be the person or persons that, "in the determination of the court, has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class") (emphasis added); see also Aronson, 79 F. Supp. 2d at 1157. The Court further recognizes, however, that the statutory scheme for the speedy resolution of the lead plaintiff question makes it undesirable for courts to prejudge damages through an extensive fact-finding process. See Aronson, 79 F. Supp. 2d at 1157. The Court has reviewed the numerous motions and supporting memoranda addressing the lead plaintiff question and generally accepts the representations of the movants as true. Based on these representations and the unnecessary delay that would be occasioned by further proceedings, Market Street's motion for oral argument (Docket No. 119) on these issues is hereby denied.

⁵ See Notice of Submission of Corrected Loss Calculation and Trading Data by Alex Meruelo; Declaration of Behram V. Parekh, filed June 6, 2002, ("Corrected Loss Calculation").

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included purchases after the disclosure of fraud; and (3) Mr. Meruelo improperly calculated his losses by using the average trading price of WCG during the 90-day period following the close of the class period. The Court will address each of Market Street's criticisms in turn below.⁶

First, Market Street criticizes Mr. Meruelo's certification and therefore his loss calculation, arguing that the certification listed "numerous trades in the common stock of WCG at prices outside the range at which WCG traded on those dates." Market Street then calculates the amount by which Mr. Meruelo's losses would be reduced if the Court rejected all trades listed on the certification at prices outside the range at which the stock traded on those dates, arguing that Mr. Meruelo's claimed losses should be reduced by \$1,128,665.00.

On June 6, 2002, however, Mr. Meruelo submitted a Corrected Loss Calculation and actual trading data supporting his motion for appointment as lead plaintiff. The revised loss calculation was submitted to correct the following discrepancies: (1) the trading data attached to Mr. Meruelo's certification reflected settlement dates rather than trading dates for the stock; and (2) the trading data attached to Mr. Meruelo's certification included the commission charge as part of the price of the securities, rather than reflecting just the trade price of the securities. After correcting for these errors, Mr. Meruelo's losses amount to \$3,905,136.80; a total more than the

⁶ In its June 6, 2002 Response Memorandum, Market Street also argued that Mr. Meruelo's losses were overstated because the Meruelo Group and Mr. Meruelo: (1) failed to assign value to Mr. Paronyan's shares; and (2) improperly aggregated the claims of the individuals in the Meruelo Group. Because the other individual lead plaintiff applicants in the former "Meruelo Group" have withdrawn their applications in support of Mr. Meruelo, the Court need not address these arguments.

amount stated in Mr. Meruelo's original submission.⁷ The Court has reviewed the revised loss calculations and supporting trading data and finds that the errors identified by Market Street (and certain other lead plaintiff movants) have been sufficiently addressed. Accordingly, the Court finds unnecessary any reduction of Mr. Meruelo's loss calculation on the basis that the trade prices stated on the certification are in error.⁸

Market Street next claims that Mr. Meruelo's losses are overstated because his certification includes purchases of WCG securities effected after the disclosure of the fraud. Market Street argues that Mr. Meruelo's purchases of 171,700 shares of WCG stock on January 29, 2002 should be excluded from his loss calculation because the WMB press release describing the contingent guarantee of WCG debt was issued at 7:31 a.m. on January 29, 2002, before the market opened for trading.

Mr. Meruelo contends, however, that the January 29 purchases were appropriately included in his loss calculation because the class period alleged in the complaints filed in this action end on and include January 29, 2002. See, e.g., Cali, et al. v. Williams Cos. Inc., et al., Compl. at ¶ 18 ("Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a Class, consisting of all those who purchased or

⁷ Mr. Meruelo's Corrected Loss Calculation explains that the increase in the amount of loss is due to the inadvertent exclusion from his original submission of purchases that were "settled" after the end of the class period but "transacted" within the class period.

⁸ The Court finds that the corrected errors in Mr. Meruelo's certification and loss calculation do not provide a sufficient basis for denying his motion to be appointed lead plaintiff. Cf. Amended Memo. Of Law in Opp'n to the Competing Lead Plaintiff Motions and in Further Support of the Motion of Norman H. Kirkendoll, Michael Ewing, Alex Meruelo and Melis Paronyan for Consolidation, Appointment as Lead Plaintiff and For Approval and Selection of Lead and Liaison Counsel (4/19/02) ("The fact that none of the three certifications that were filed by Market Street Securities was accurate, in and of itself, provides additional grounds for denying its motion.").

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otherwise acquired the securities of WMB and/or WCG between July 24, 2000 and January 29, 2002 inclusive (the 'Class Period') and who were damaged thereby") (emphasis added). Mr. Meruelo further contends that, in addition to the press release purportedly issued at 7:31 a.m., WCG issued its own press release on January 29, which may have contradicted WMB's prior statements. Mr. Meruelo argues that these conflicting press releases created confusion in the market regarding WMB and WCG's securities.

The Court finds that a determination regarding whether the shares purchased by Mr. Meruelo on January 29, 2002 occurred after the market became aware of the alleged fraud requires an extended inquiry and factual determination as to the exact moment investors were on notice of the negative information. The Court finds that such an inquiry is inappropriate and unnecessary at this stage of the litigation and, accordingly, declines to exclude Mr. Meruelo's January 29, 2002 purchases of WCG stock from Mr. Meruelo's loss calculation on that basis.

Finally, in addition to the criticisms of the trading prices stated in Mr. Meruelo's certification, Market Street also attacks the method by which Mr. Meruelo calculates his losses. Market Street argues that Mr. Meruelo's loss calculation, based on the PSLRA's 90-day average trading price, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(e), is an inappropriate measure of loss at the lead plaintiff appointment stage.⁹ Instead, Market Street argues that the appropriate measure of loss would be one based on the closing price for WCG common stock on January 29, 2002, the day the alleged fraud was disclosed. Market Street further argues that Mr. Meruelo's use of the 90-day average

⁹ The PSLRA provides a limit on the amount of damages that can be recovered in a private action where the plaintiff seeks to establish damages by reference to the market price of a security. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(e)(1). That limit is calculated by determining "the mean trading price of [the] security during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the information correcting the misstatement or omission that is the basis for the action is disseminated to the market." Id.

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trading price is an attempt to claim "more than \$1,700,000 worth of losses that occurred well after the disclosure of the fraud and the end of the class period."

Market Street cites the district court's decision in In re Ribozyme Pharms., Inc. Sec. Litig., 192 F.R.D. 656, 661 (D. Colo. 2000), to support its position that the 90-day average trading price should not be used to determine the lead plaintiff with the largest financial interest in the litigation. In Ribozyme, the court found that the loss calculation for the so-called "retention" plaintiffs was the value to which the stock price fell at the end of the class period; the court also explicitly rejected the use of the 90-day average trading price as a method for calculating damages:

The "Lead Plaintiffs" Group argues against this novel valuation method and states that it is error to read the PSLRA's "90-day bounce back" provision regarding the calculation of damages into the lead plaintiff provision regarding the largest financial interest. I agree that the determination of financial interest does not equate to damages. Damages is a term of art and a technical matter to be established by experts. The lead plaintiff provision in the PSLRA does not use the term "damages" but instead, "largest financial interest."

192 F.R.D. at 661.

The Court does not consider Ribozyme's analysis persuasive in light of the number of district courts relying upon the 90-day average trading price in comparing claimed losses. See, e.g., In re Microstrategy Inc. Sec. Litig., 110 F. Supp. 2d 427 (E.D. Va. 2000) (using 90-day period after the close of the class period to determine largest financial interest); Steiner v. Nat'l Auto Credit, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21804, at *12 (N.D. Ohio July 16, 1998) (using the "mean trading price," or the average of the daily trading price of the security "during the 90 day period," to determine the largest financial interest in the case).¹⁰ In fact, the Court is unaware of any other

¹⁰ The Ribozyme court stated that it relied on several non-published opinions in its district that have employed the "retention value" method for determining the largest financial interest pursuant to the PSLRA. See Ribozyme, 192 F.R.D. at 660 (citing In re New Era Networks, Inc. Sec. Litig., Civil Action No. 99-WM-473 (Colo. 1999); In re Samsonite Corp. Sec. Litig., Civil Action No. 98-K-1878 (Colo. 1998); In re Boston Chicken Sec. Litig., Civil

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opinion holding that the "retention value" method is the only appropriate method of calculating damages."¹¹

Moreover, the Court finds that Market Street failed to follow the directive at the April 12, 2002 hearing to articulate with clarity and specificity the bases and methods for calculating its own losses. Market Street's original certification and loss calculation, unlike those of other lead plaintiff movants, failed to provide sufficient information for the Court to analyze the basis for its claimed financial interest. Furthermore, despite its sharp criticism of other lead plaintiff movants' calculations, Market Street has not provided any additional information to supplement its original submission in the four rounds of briefing following its April 1, 2002 motion.

In accordance with the PSLRA, the Court finds that Mr. Meruelo is the WCG Subclass lead plaintiff movant with the "largest financial interest" in the outcome of the litigation. The Court's determination is based on the following findings: (1) Mr. Meruelo's loss calculations have survived scrutiny and are permissibly calculated using the 90-day average trading price under the PSLRA; (2) the Watkins Group's claimed losses are significantly less than those of Mr. Meruelo; and (3) the claimed losses of Market Street are also significantly less than those of Mr. Meruelo.

Action No. 97-WM-1308 (Colo. 1997); In re New Era of Networks, Inc. Sec. Litig., Civil Action No. 99-WM-1274 (Colo. 1999)). The Court finds that each of these four opinions is inapposite because none of them endorses the "retention value" method or even mentions how the largest financial interest was determined. See id. Furthermore, two of the cases, New Era, Civil Action No. 99-WM-473; and Samsonite, Civil Action No. 98-K-1878, involved unopposed motions for the appointment of lead plaintiff, thereby explaining the absence of any discussion regarding the appropriate method for determining which movant had the "largest financial interest."

¹¹ The Court finds Market Street's attacks on Mr. Meruelo's use of the 90-day average trading price notable given Market Street's failure to make the argument before final briefs were submitted on June 6, 2002. This failure is particularly perplexing in light of the number of lead plaintiff movants calculating "losses" and financial interest using that method.

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Having determined that Mr. Meruelo has the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation, the Court turns to whether Mr. Meruelo satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. of Civ. P. 23. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I). Rule 23(a) provides that a party may serve as a class representative only if the following four requirements are met: (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class; (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a). Many courts agree, however, that a "wide-ranging analysis under Rule 23 is not appropriate and should be left for consideration of a motion for class certification. This inquiry, therefore, focuses on the qualities of the class representatives enumerated in Rule 23(a)(3) and 23(a)(4)." *Lax*, 1997 WL 461036, at *6 (internal quotations omitted); *see also Microstrategy*, 110 F. Supp. 2d 427; *Aronson*, 79 F. Supp. 2d at 1158 (citations omitted) (holding that, at the lead plaintiff appointment stage, "all that is required is a 'preliminary showing' that the lead plaintiff's claims are typical and adequate.").

Market Street claims Mr. Meruelo's losses are not typical of those of the WCG Subclass under Rule 23(a) because Mr. Meruelo is subject to unique defenses as a result of his purchases of securities after the alleged disclosure of the fraud on January 29, 2002. In support of this position, Market Street quotes a brief purportedly filed by Mr. Meruelo's counsel, Milberg Weiss, on behalf of another client in an unrelated case. Market Street argues that Mr. Meruelo's purchases of WCG securities on January 29, 2002 are similar to the purchases of the lead plaintiff movant in *Enron* where the court determined the movant was subject to unique defenses and therefore was atypical because it purchased millions of shares of Enron stock after the disclosure of the fraud. *Enron*, 2002 WL 530588, at *22; *see also Berwecky v. Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc.*, 197 F.R.D. 65 (S.D.N.Y. 2000) (holding that a person who increases his holding after

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revelation of the fraud is subject to unique defenses that preclude him from serving as class representative); Kreindler v. Sambo's Rest., Inc., 1985 U.S. Dist. Lexis 23388 (S.D.N.Y. 1985) (same).

Mr. Meruelo contends that his purchases of WCG securities on January 29, 2002, the last day of the class period, can be distinguished from those of the lead plaintiff movant in Enron, the Florida State Board of Administration ("FSBA"). Mr. Meruelo explains that the FSBA's purchases of Enron securities were made on its behalf by its investment advisor, Alliance Capital Management Holding, well after the first Enron shareholder suits were filed against Enron and after the announcement of the SEC investigation into Enron.

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3), the claims of the representative parties must be typical of those of the putative class. Typicality is achieved where the named plaintiff's claims arise "from the same event or course of conduct that gives rise to claims of other class members and the claims are based on the same legal theory." Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *8 (citations omitted). Even though the typicality requirement is not satisfied when the "plaintiff's factual or legal stance is not characteristic of that of other members," id., at *13 (citations omitted), the existence of minor distinctions will not preclude the typicality requirement from being met, Olsen, 3 F. Supp. 2d at 296; see also Nice Sys., 188 F.R.D. at 217; Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *13.

The Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's purchases of WCG stock on January 29, 2002, the first day the alleged fraud was disclosed, may be distinguished from the purchases of FSBA because the purchases of FSBA occurred "after the initial public disclosure regarding [its] overstatement of its assets and partnership liabilities, after the first suits in this consolidated action were filed, and after the SEC announced that it was investigating [the company]." Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *22. In this case, the purchases upon which Market Street seeks to disqualify Mr. Meruelo occurred on January 29, 2002, the date the plaintiffs claim the first WMB

or WCG press release regarding the alleged fraud was issued. In Enron, the court found that FSBA's claims were atypical because, unlike this case, FSBA's purchases occurred so long after the first disclosure of the fraud that FSBA, unlike other investors, did not buy the stock relying upon either the market or statements by Enron or its agents.¹² The Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's purchases were not atypical so as to disqualify him from serving as lead plaintiff.

The Watkins Group, seeking to be appointed lead plaintiff on behalf of WCG bondholders, argues that its interests will not be adequately protected by Mr. Meruelo, or any other equity holder lead plaintiff. The Watkins Group objects on the following grounds: (1) WCG shareholders do not have standing to pursue claims on behalf of WCG bondholders; and (2) because the interests of WCG shareholders and WCG bondholders are divergent, the WCG bondholders will not be adequately represented by a shareholder lead plaintiff.

To the extent the Watkins Group's first argument relates to the typicality of Mr. Meruelo's claims, the Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's claims are typical because the claims "arise from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other class members." See Lax, 1997 WL 461036, at *6 (N.D. Ill. 1997); see also Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *13 ("When plaintiffs have alleged such a common course of conduct, courts consistently have found no bar to class certification even though members of a class may have purchased different types of securities or interests, or purchased similar securities at different times.") (internal quotations omitted). Moreover, the Court finds that, insofar as the appointment of Mr. Meruelo

¹² The lead plaintiff movants, here, dispute whether the market, and Mr. Meruelo, had notice of the alleged fraud when the securities were purchased. As the Court explained above, an extended inquiry and factual determination into the exact moment investors were on notice is inappropriate and unnecessary at this stage of the litigation and will not be taken up here.

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as WCG Subclass lead plaintiff presents standing issues, those issues can be resolved by the filing of an amended complaint.

The Watkins Group's second attack goes to the adequacy of Mr. Meruelo, or any shareholder lead plaintiff movant, to represent the interests of WCG bondholders. The Watkins Group, stressing the significance of the WCG bankruptcy, claims that it should also be appointed lead plaintiff in order to "ensure that the interests of bond purchasers are adequately represented and protected during any settlement negotiations, and particularly during any allocation of funds in the event of recovery." Watkins Group Reply Mem. (Jun. 6, 2002), at 4.

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4), class representatives must adequately represent the interests of the putative class. This requirement is satisfied where: "(1) class counsel is qualified, experienced and generally able to conduct the litigation; (2) the class members do not have interests that are antagonistic to one another; and (3) the class has sufficient interest in the outcome of the case to ensure vigorous adequacy." Olstien, 3 F. Supp. 2d at 296 (citations and internal quotations omitted); see also Microstrategy, 110 F. Supp. 2d at 435-36. In other words, "[a]dequacy, for purposes of the lead plaintiff determination, is contingent upon both the existence of common interests between the proposed lead plaintiffs and the class, and a willingness on the part of the proposed lead plaintiff to vigorously prosecute the action." Nice Sys., 188 F.R.D. at 219.

The Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's representation meets the Rule 23(a)(4) standard for adequacy. First, the Court finds Milberg Weiss, Weiss & Yurman, and Morrel West, the counsel selected by Mr. Meruelo, to be qualified and experienced lawyers who are unquestionably capable of conducting the litigation on behalf of the WCG Subclass. Second, the Court finds that any problems due to alleged conflicts of interest between WCG's debt and equity holders amounts to mere speculation at the present time. At this stage of the litigation, the

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holders of both types of securities have the common goal of establishing the omissions and misrepresentations allegedly made to the market. See generally Enron, 2002 WL 530588, at *13. The Court further finds that the inevitable dilution of control stemming from the appointment of multiple lead plaintiffs may result in an unnecessary and undesirable weakening of the bargaining power of the WCG Subclass. See Nice Sys., 188 F.R.D. at 220 ("Representation by a disparate group of plaintiffs, each seeking only the protection of its own interests, could well hamper the force and focus of the litigation.") (internal quotations omitted). Finally, the Watkins Group's contention that Mr. Meruelo, or another shareholder lead plaintiff, will not vigorously pursue the claims of the bondholder class members is unsubstantiated. The Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's own financial stake in the litigation provides an adequate incentive for him to vigorously prosecute the action on all fronts. See generally Nice Sys., 188 F.R.D. at 219.

The final issue with respect to the appointment of Mr. Meruelo as lead plaintiff is whether any lead plaintiff movant has successfully rebutted the presumption that Mr. Meruelo is the "most adequate plaintiff." Under the PSLRA, the presumptive lead plaintiff may only be rebutted upon proof that the plaintiff either: (1) will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class; or (2) is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II). Both Market Street's and the Watkins Group's arguments for the disqualification of Mr. Meruelo on the grounds that his claims are atypical or inadequate under Rule 23(a) may be construed as rebuttal challenges under the PSLRA. See id. The Court addressed and rejected these arguments above. Therefore, the Court finds that the presumption that Mr. Meruelo is the "most adequate plaintiff" for the subclass has not been rebutted. Accordingly, the Court hereby appoints Mr. Meruelo as the lead plaintiff for the WCG subclass.

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B. Appointment of Counsel for the WCG Subclass

The Court now turns to the approval of lead counsel for the WCG Subclass. As noted above, the Court finds that Mr. Meruelo's selections, Milberg Weiss, Weiss & Yourman, and Morrel West, are qualified, experienced counsel who will adequately represent the interests of the class. Accordingly, the Court approves Mr. Meruelo's selection of Milberg Weiss and Weiss & Yourman as co-lead counsel, provided there is no duplication of attorneys' services, and the use of co-lead counsel does not in any way increase attorney fees and expenses. See Lax, 1997 WL 461036, at *7 (noting the use of co-lead counsel should not result in increased attorneys' fees and expenses). The Court also approves Mr. Meruelo's selection of Tulsa law firm Morrel West as local counsel for the WCG Subclass.

III

A. Appointment of Lead Plaintiff for the WMB Subclass

On April 1, 2002, motions seeking lead plaintiff status were filed by HGK and Teamsters Local 710 Pension Fund and Health & Welfare Fund ("Local 710"); both movants now seek to be appointed lead plaintiff for the subclass of purchasers of WMB securities ("WMB Subclass"). HGK and Local 710 submitted motions, as required by the PSLRA, within sixty days from the January 29, 2002 publication of the notice of the pendency of this class action. See 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(A)(i)(II). The potential lead plaintiffs for the WMB Subclass, therefore, both satisfy the first requirement for becoming the presumptive "most adequate plaintiff."

The Court must next determine which movant "has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class." 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb). The financial interest claimed by the two lead plaintiff movants for the WMB Subclass are as follows:

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<u>Lead Plaintiff Movant</u>	<u>Claimed Losses</u>
HGK	\$3,774,142.00
Local 710	\$ 146,166.00 ¹³

As previously discussed, determining which lead plaintiff movant has the largest financial interest in the litigation is, generally, the most significant inquiry for the Court in appointing a lead plaintiff. See, e.g., *Aronson*, 79 F. Supp. 2d at 1157. In the case of the WMB Subclass, however, HGK's alleged losses dwarf those of Local 710, and Local 710 has failed to demonstrate that HGK's claimed WMB holdings or losses are erroneously calculated or otherwise overstated. Accordingly, the Court finds that HGK has the "largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation." See 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(bb).

Local 710 argues that it should be appointed a separate lead plaintiff for a subclass of WMB bondholders.¹⁴ Asserting similar justifications as those argued by the Watkins Group, Local 710 contends that no shareholder lead plaintiff movant has the standing required to pursue claims on behalf of the bondholders, and that Local 710's interests will not be adequately represented by a shareholder lead plaintiff.¹⁵

¹³ HGK's losses were suffered in connection with its purchase of shares of WMB common stock and were determined after deducting gains from the sale of its WCG shares received as dividends; Local 710's losses were suffered in connection of its purchases of WMB notes.

¹⁴ In its memoranda addressing the appointment of lead plaintiff, Local 710 urges the Court to appoint it lead plaintiff of a separate subclass of purchasers of WMB notes. The Court denied Local 710's request for the creation of a separate subclass in its June 21, 2002 order (Docket No. 123), and will not address that issue again here.

¹⁵ It is unclear whether Local 710's attack is based on the grounds of typicality and adequacy under Rule 23 or an attack on HGK as the presumptive lead plaintiff.

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As noted above, in determining the most adequate plaintiff, the Court must address Rule 23(a)'s typicality and adequacy requirements. The Court finds that HGK's representation meets the Rule 23(a) standards for typicality and adequacy. First, the Court finds that HGK's claims are typical of the WMB bondholders because the claims asserted by HGK on behalf of the shareholder plaintiffs "arise from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other class members." See Lax, 1997 WL 461036, at *6. As discussed above, the Court finds that, to the extent the appointment of HGK as WMB Subclass lead plaintiff presents standing issues, those issues can also be resolved at the appropriate time by the filing of an amended complaint. Second, the Court finds that HGK's representation of the class is adequate for the reasons identified previously with respect to appointment of a lead plaintiff for the WCG Subclass because HGK: (1) has selected qualified and experienced counsel; (2) does not have any present conflicts of interest with the WMB bondholders; and (3) will vigorously prosecute the action.

Accordingly, because HGK (1) filed its lead plaintiff application within 60 days of the notice of the pendency of the action; (2) has been determined by the Court to have the largest financial interest in the litigation's outcome; and (3) satisfies the requirements of Rule 23, HGK is presumed to be the "most adequate" plaintiff. The Court finds that Local 710 has not successfully rebutted this presumption or otherwise shown that HGK cannot or will not adequately represent the class. Accordingly, the Court hereby appoints HGK as the lead plaintiff for the WMB Subclass.

B. Appointment of Counsel for the WMB Subclass

The Court now turns to the approval of lead counsel for the WMB Subclass. The Court finds that HGK's selections, Schoengold & Sporn and the Seymour Law Firm, are qualified,

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experienced counsel who will adequately represent the interests of the class. Accordingly, the Court hereby approves HGK's selection of Schoengold & Sporn and the Tulsa law firm, the Seymour Law Firm, as co-lead counsel for the subclass of purchasers of WMB securities, provided there is no duplication of attorneys' services, and the use of co-lead counsel does not in any way increase attorney fees and expenses. See Lax, 1997 WL 461036, at *7.


IV

On March 15, 2002, the parties filed a Joint Stipulation and Proposed Scheduling Order to govern the timing of submissions following the entry of the Court's order appointing lead plaintiff and lead counsel. Pursuant to this Order, and in accordance with that Joint Stipulation, the Court hereby orders the following:

1. Lead Plaintiffs for the WCG and WMB Subclasses shall file consolidated amended complaints on behalf of their respective subclasses incorporating all causes of action on behalf of all putative subclass members no later than 45 days from this order;
2. Defendants shall have 45 days from service of the consolidated amended complaints to file responsive pleadings;
3. Lead Plaintiffs shall have 45 days to file any oppositions to the responsive pleadings; and
4. Defendants shall have 15 days to reply to Plaintiffs' opposition.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

This 8TH day of July, 2002.


Sven Erik Holmes
United States District Judge